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1988
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MARVEL AGE® ANNUAL
4 NEW 5-PAGE PREVIEWS OF WOLVERINE™, SPEEDBALL™, DAMAGE CONTROL™ AND A SHADOWLINE SAGA!™

Stan Lee presents

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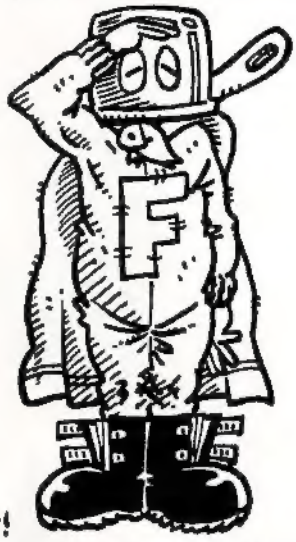
SALICRUP'S SECTION

Welcome to the fourth MARVEL AGE ANNUAL. Do you believe that this is our fourth annual? It may not seem like a big deal to you, but I started editing MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE with issue #7 and I never would've guessed I'd still be at it over sixty issues later, let alone editing the fourth giant-sized annual. If you were



around for the first three MARVEL AGE ANNUALs then you know that we try to come up with a different gimmick each year to preview all the Marvel, Epic, New Universe, and Star titles. Our first annual featured a special jam story which had pages by virtually every regular Marvel creative team spotlighting their characters. Our second annual featured a special lost issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE from the early sixties. Last year, our third annual featured the **Fred Hembeck** show wherein all the stars of the Marvel Universe dropped in to show "clips" from their latest issues. This year, our humble Editor in Chief, **Tom DeFalco**, came up with the idea of having four five-page strips spotlighting the latest and greatest Marvel projects. So we've lined up WOLVERINE, SPEEDBALL, DAMAGE CONTROL, and THE SHADOWLINE SAGA this issue to give you an idea of what to expect month after month in those Marvel, Star, and Epic comics.

Of course, the big feature of every MARVEL AGE ANNUAL is Marvel A–Z, where we tell you what's happening title by title in alphabetical order. We've also got the Epic, Star, and New Universe A–Zs, of course, but all of them together can't match the output of the main Marvel line of titles.

And just to make sure you were paying attention last year, we're including the Marvel Trivia Quiz. We always said there would be a test later, we weren't kidding!

Also this year we're running a sort of contest, except we can't call it a contest for legal reasons. So if you see something on our centerspread that you think might be a contest or something, it's *something!*

So that's what we've got in store for you this issue. Now I've gotta come up with a gimmick for next year! If you've got any ideas, send 'em to . . .

—Jim Salicrup

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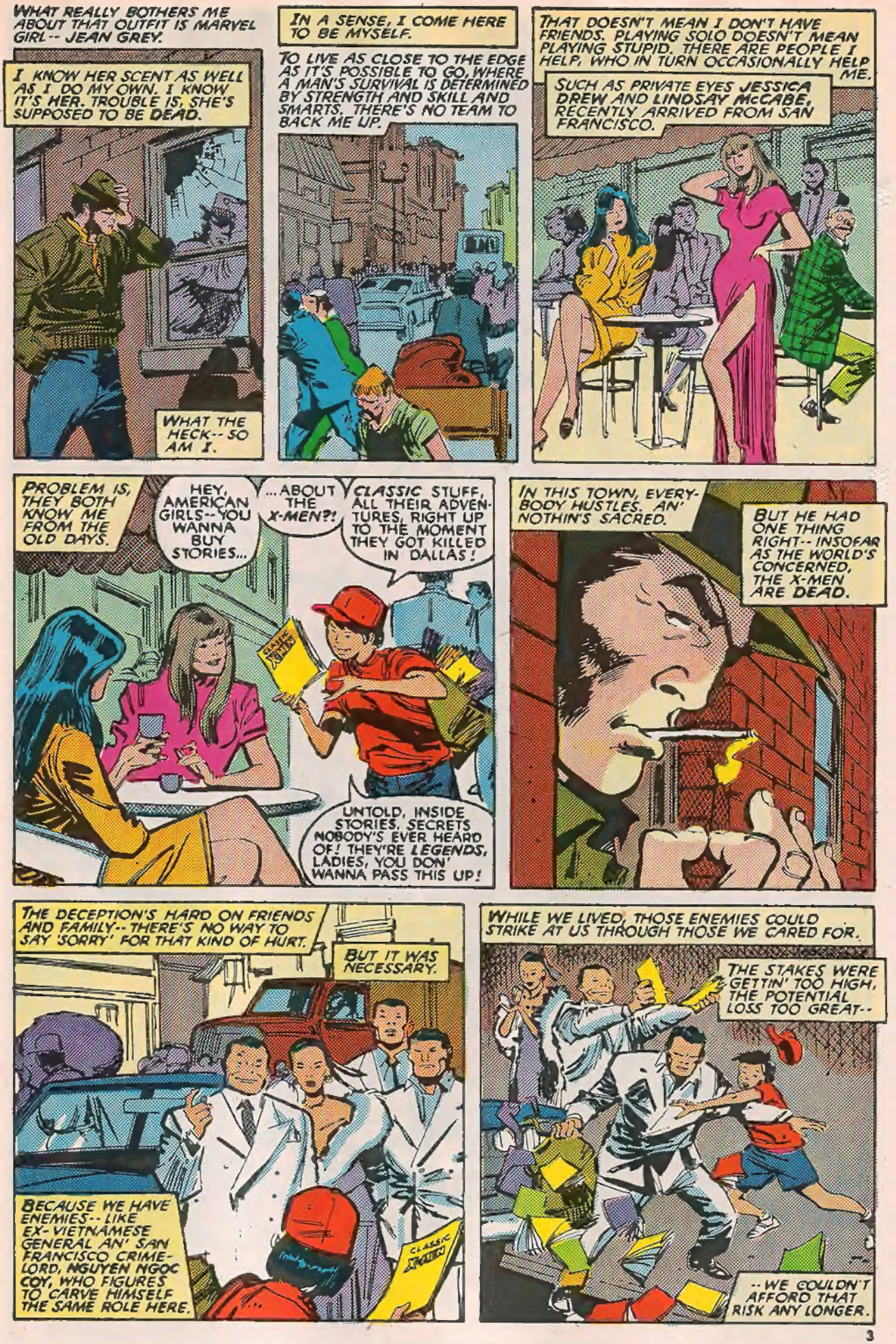
WOLVERINE
THIS IS MADRIPOOR.
TO THOSE WHO KNOW, THE WILDEST CITY IN THE WORLD, A PLACE WHERE ANYTHING GOES AND EVERYTHING HAS ITS PRICE.
MY KINDA TOWN.
CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
JOHN BUSCEMA, BREAKDOWNS
KLAUS JANSON, FINISHED ART
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT, COLORIST
JIM SALICRUP, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF
I'M WOLVERINE.
TO THOSE WHO KNOW, I'M ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN IN THE WORLD.
YOU WANT TO FIND OUT HOW DANGEROUS...
...CROSS ME SOME TIME.
JUST REMEMBER...
...TO SAY YOUR PRAYERS, FIRST.

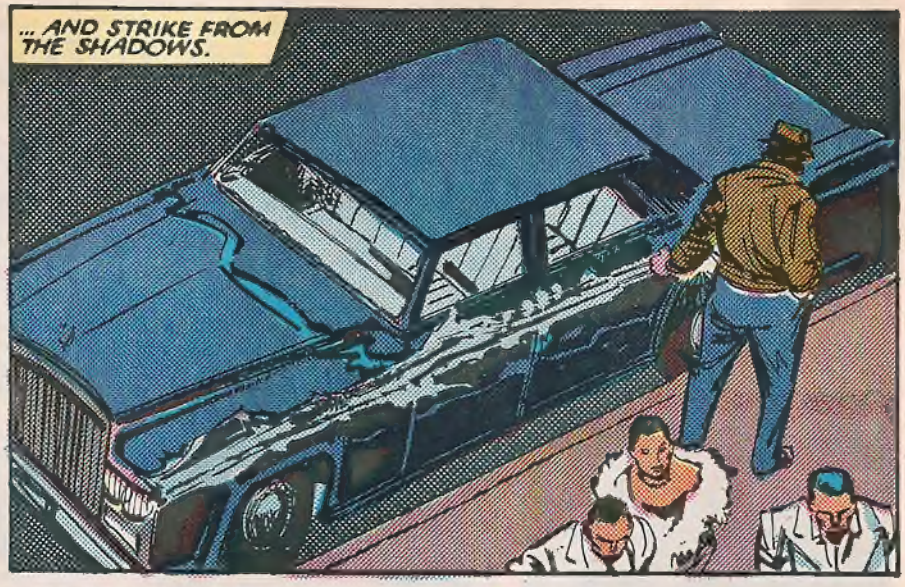
I'M AN X-MAN.
THAT MAKES ME A MUTANT AND A HERO. MEANS I RISK MY LIFE TIME AND AGAIN FOR PEOPLE WHO PROBABLY COULDN'T CARE LESS.
SNIKT

PEOPLE ABOARD THAT SHIP ARE IN THE SAME LINE OF WORK.
WE USED TO BE TEAM-MATES-- FRIENDS...
...AND MORE THAN FRIENDS.
NOW I'M NOT SO SURE.

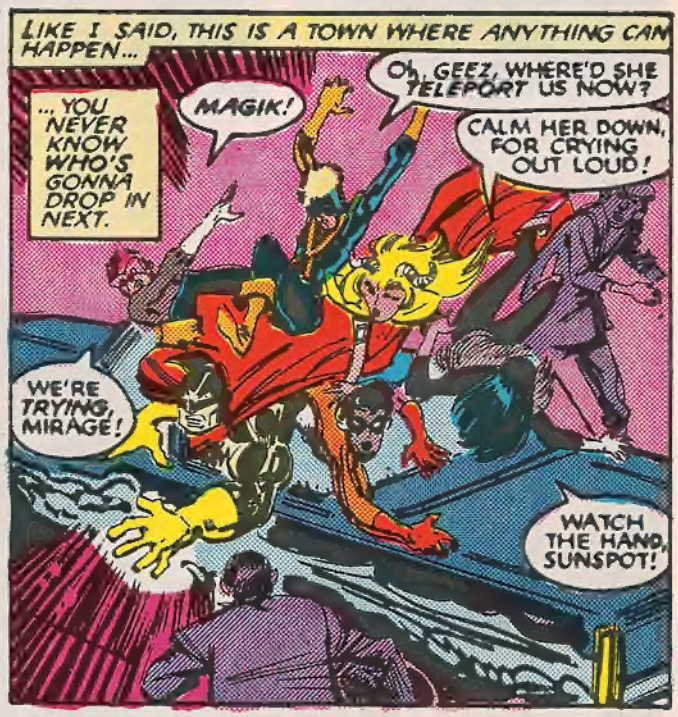
THEY BEGAN AS THE ORIGINAL X-MEN-- BROUGHT TOGETHER BY PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER, SAME AS US-- TO HELP MUTANTS FIND THEIR PROPER PLACE IN THE WORLD...
ICEMAN.
BEAST.
CYCLOPS.
MARVEL GIRL.
ANGEL.
...AN' PROTECT HUMANITY FROM THOSE MUTANTS WHO FIGURED THEIR POWERS GAVE THEM THE RIGHT TO RULE.
THEY CALL THEMSELVES X-FACTOR.
THEY CHOSE THEIR ROAD, SAME AS WE DID OURS. ONLY TIME-- AN' THE FATES-- WILL TELL WHICH WAY WAS RIGHT. MAYBE BOTH. MAYBE NEITHER.


WHAT REALLY BOTHERS ME ABOUT THAT OUTFIT IS MARVEL GIRL -- JEAN GREY.
I KNOW HER SCENT AS WELL AS I DO MY OWN. I KNOW IT'S HER. TROUBLE IS, SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.
WHAT THE HECK -- SO AM I.
IN A SENSE, I COME HERE TO BE MYSELF.
TO LIVE AS CLOSE TO THE EDGE AS IT'S POSSIBLE TO GO, WHERE A MAN'S SURVIVAL IS DETERMINED BY STRENGTH AND SKILL AND SMARTS. THERE'S NO TEAM TO BACK ME UP.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T HAVE FRIENDS. PLAYING SOLO DOESN'T MEAN PLAYING STUPID. THERE ARE PEOPLE I HELP, WHO IN TURN OCCASIONALLY HELP ME.
SUCH AS PRIVATE EYES JESSICA DREW AND LINDSAY McCABE, RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM SAN FRANCISCO.
PROBLEM IS, THEY BOTH KNOW ME FROM THE OLD DAYS.
HEY, AMERICAN GIRLS -- YOU WANNA BUY STORIES...
...ABOUT THE X-MEN?!
CLASSIC STUFF, ALL THEIR ADVENTURES, RIGHT UP TO THE MOMENT THEY GOT KILLED IN DALLAS!
CLASSIC X-MEN
UNTOLD, INSIDE STORIES, SECRETS NOBODY'S EVER HEARD OF! THEY'RE LEGENDS, LADIES, YOU DON' WANNA PASS THIS UP!
IN THIS TOWN, EVERYBODY HUSTLES. AN' NOTHIN'S SACRED.
BUT HE HAD ONE THING RIGHT -- INSOFAR AS THE WORLD'S CONCERNED, THE X-MEN ARE DEAD.
THE DECEPTION'S HARD ON FRIENDS AND FAMILY -- THERE'S NO WAY TO SAY 'SORRY' FOR THAT KIND OF HURT.
BUT IT WAS NECESSARY.
BECAUSE WE HAVE ENEMIES -- LIKE EX-VIETNAMESE GENERAL AN' SAN FRANCISCO CRIME-LORD, NGUYEN NGOC COY, WHO FIGURES TO CARVE HIMSELF THE SAME ROLE HERE.
CLASSIC X-MEN
WHILE WE LIVED, THOSE ENEMIES COULD STRIKE AT US THROUGH THOSE WE CARED FOR.
THE STAKES WERE GETTIN' TOO HIGH, THE POTENTIAL LOSS TOO GREAT --
-- WE COULDN'T AFFORD THAT RISK ANY LONGER.

BETTER INSTEAD TO VANISH FROM THE SCENE...
SNIKT


... AND STRIKE FROM THE SHADOWS.

SO THAT NO ONE KNOWS WHO WE ARE. ONLY THAT WE'VE BEEN.
AND THAT WE MEAN BUSINESS.


LIKE I SAID, THIS IS A TOWN WHERE ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN...
...YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'S GONNA DROP IN NEXT.
MAGIK!
OH, GEEZ, WHERE'D SHE TELEPORT US NOW?
CALM HER DOWN, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
WE'RE TRYING, MIRAGE!
WATCH THE HAND, SUNSPOT!

YOU CAN'T RUN ANY LONGER, MAGIC, WE WON'T LET YOU!
YOU HEARD DESTINY'S PREDICTION, I'M GOING TO IGNITE THE INFERNO THAT ENDS THE WORLD!
HAVING A KING-SIZE HISSY-FIT TANTRUM WON'T CHANGE THAT! WE'RE THE NEW MUTANTS!

WITH THE X-MEN GONE, WE'VE GOT NO ONE TO TURN TO. WE CAN TRUST BUT OURSELVES.
IF THE WORLD'S IN DANGER, IT'S UP TO US TO SAVE IT.
IF THAT'S EVEN POSSIBLE.
THE X-MEN TRIED, RIGHT TO THE END. CAN WE DO ANY LESS?

MAGIK! MAGIK!!
IT'S ME, SHADOWCAT-- WAIT, PLEASE, DON'T GO-- oh, BOTHER!
BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, KATZCHEN.
NIGHTCRAWLER, IF SOMETHING'S WRONG -- AND IT'S SERIOUS--
--WE SHOULD HELP! ISN'T THAT WHY WE FORMED EXCALIBUR?!
YOU CAN'T HELP PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT IT. AND, SADLY, SOME PEOPLE-- SOMETIMES-- HAVE TO LEARN THE HARD WAY WHEN TO SWALLOW THEIR PRIDE...
...AND ASK.
WHETHER THEY DO OR NOT-- WHETHER THEY WANT US OR NOT-- WE'RE GONNA BE THERE.
IT'S OUR WORLD, TOO. AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP. RIGHT, GUYS?
KID HAS MORE COURAGE THAN AN ARMY. AND SHE'S PAID THE PRICE FOR IT. WE ALL HAVE.
SOMETHING'S BREWING.
Princess BAR
AN INFERNO. A FIRE CAPABLE OF TURNING THE WORLD INTO HADES.
SO WE'LL PUT IT OUT.
THAT'S PART OF THE REASON WE CHOSE TO DIE, TO MAKE SURE THOSE OTHERS WOULD NEVER HAVE TO.
X-FACTOR, THE NEW MUTANTS, EXCALIBUR-- THEY ALL HAVE THEIR PLACE, THEIR ROLE.
BUT IN THE END, THEY'RE ONLY HEROES.
WE'RE LEGENDS.
WE'RE -- THE X-MEN!

DON'T MISS THE FIRST ISSUE OF WOLVERINE--ON SALE SOON!

MARVEL® COMICS A to Z

SPOILER WARNING: If you *don't* want to know some of the secrets and surprises coming up in your favorite Marvel comics — don't read this article! You've been warned!

Ah, Summertime . . . a time of baseball, beaches, sleepaway camp, and of course — Marvel A to Z!

That's right! It's time once again for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's annual review of what you can expect to see over the next twelve months or so from mighty Marvel. We scoured the four corners of the Earth (or at least Brooklyn), tracking down writers and editors to bring you the latest information on what'll be going on in the Marvel Universe, straight from the horse's mouth!

ALPHA FLIGHT

Written by **James D. Hudnall** and drawn by **Hugh Haynes**. 32 pages. Mando paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

"Basically, we're going to wrap up the **Dream Queen** storyline," **James** told us. "This being called the **Dream Queen** has been causing horrible supernatural things to happen to each member of the team. And she's been gaining energy from these incidents, which will help her break into our universe!"

In the meantime, some less supernatural menaces will threaten the **Alphans** as well: "A computer virus breaks out and takes **Box** over, and forces him to steal nuclear weapons. So it's **Box** versus the U.S. Air Force!

All of these events will culminate in "a two-part conclusion where the **Dream Queen** is defeated and the team is united once more. At that point, **Alpha Flight** will be forged into a new team with a new goal in mind.

"Another story in the works has **Vindicator** becoming involved in a conspiracy involving the Contras and a gangster's desire to overthrow a Communist government in Central America, which will allow him to secure a drug-producing factory."

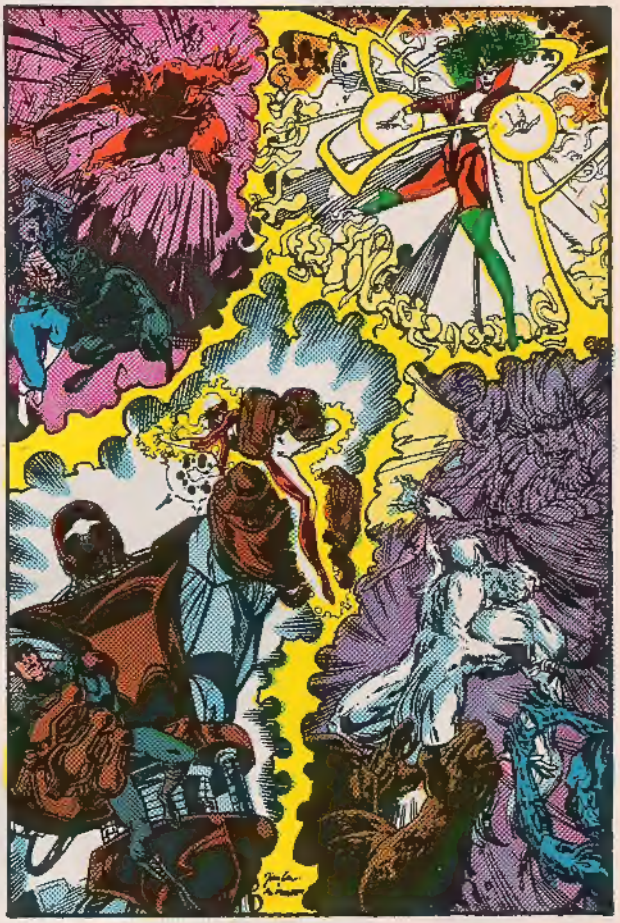
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Written by **David Michelinie**, and illustrated by **Todd McFarlane**. $1.00.

"#306 is a whole bunch of character stuff with a very thin plot tying it together," **David Michelinie** chuckled. "It involves **Humbug**, who is one of the silliest and therefore one of my favorite characters. Two subplots are developed. One of them involves **Jonathan Caesar**, **Mary Jane**'s biggest fan, who was introduced in #304. The other involves the **Chameleon**, setting up issue #307. Also, **Pete** and **Mary Jane** go to Cleveland where he's doing a signing for his book of **Spider-Man** photographs.

"#307 takes place in Chicago. **Peter** goes to Chicago to do a signing. Meanwhile, the **Chameleon** is setting up a caper there.

"Basically, in my research on the **Chameleon**, I found out that nobody knows who he is, what he is, why he is . . . He's never been given any kind of background; we don't even know his name! So I came up with an origin, and he's kind of refocused; he's always been a crook but also a spy but also this but also that . . . Plus, the first two times he appeared,he was deported, but he didn't have any kind of accent, and as far as I know, you can't deport American citizens. I'm giving him an origin that ties all of that together and solidifies a purpose for him. It will be revealed in #307. Plus, he's got a new appearance and a new modus operandi. So that's a big issue for the **Chameleon**."



As if that weren't enough, **David** also revealed that something big — and bad — will happen to **Mary Jane** in #307, but getting more specific than that would ruin the surprise (and you know how we hate to ruin surprises)!

We'll see **Peter's** reaction to what's happened to his wife in issue #308. "**Peter** goes a little crazy. He runs around as **Spider-Man**, picks up on a red herring, and runs into **Taskmaster**! He also does a signing in Queens to get his mind off of **Mary Jane's** situation and he runs into **Aunt May** there. **Aunt May** is oh so proud of her nephew! A touching scene.

"Issue #309 will culminate the **Mary Jane** storyline. I'm introducing a new duo of bad guys called **Styx** and **Stones**. **Styx** is a mastermind who loves death, who adores death, and he's got these plans to bring about death in all of its wonderful forms. **Stones** is his partner, who actually carries out all of these things.

"That will pretty much resolve the storylines for the six biweekly issues. By then, **Peter's** book will be on the best-seller list, not that it'll do him a lot of good because he won't make any money off of it. And somewhere along the line, he'll probably be awarded some sort of fellowship and go back to school.

"Generally, issues #310 and 311 will focus on him getting back into school. And we'll probably involve a two-issue continuity with the **Lizard** because **Todd** draws a great **Lizard**! And very tentatively, we may do something with the **Hobgoblin** in the last three issues of the year. [SPIDER-MAN editor] **Jim Salicrup** suggested we do **Hobgoblin** and I like **Hobgoblin**, **Todd** likes **Mysterio**, and [assistant editor] **Glenn Herdling** suggested **Venom**, so we may have all three of those characters appearing. We're also hoping to do a Christmas story because I've been in this business fifteen years and I've never done a Christmas story; I'd really like to do a Christmas story."

THE AVENGERS

Written by **Walt Simonson**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. $1.00.

The coming year will be one of death and rebirth for the **Avengers**. The current team will break up, to be followed by the gathering of an all-new roster of heroes by the end of the year.

"#296 is the final issue of the present line-up. At that point, the **Avengers** are all either dead, disposed of, turned to the dark side of the Force, or have given up the fight," scripter **Walt Simonson**, said. "#298 is the Avengerless issue. And #s 299 and 300 will see the resurrection of the **Avengers** with the new line-up, which will consist of some old members and eventually, one new member . . . and a couple of surprises.

"The end of the storyline that wraps up in #296 uses one of the **Avengers**' old foes; that's already at work in the subplot of the book, and it comes to fruition in #s 295 and 296.

"In #s 298, 299, and 300, I'll be borrowing some of the threads from the Inferno series **Weezie [Simonson]** and **Chris [Claremont]** are doing in X-MEN, X-FACTOR, NEW MUTANTS, and so on. They'll be spinning so many threads that I'm going to borrow some of them as a basis for the storyline to get the **Avengers** together again.

"Beyond that, after #300, the storylines that will immediately follow will involve the **Council of Cross-Time Kangs**. They'll have had a certain amount to do with the events leading up to the **Avengers**' dissolution, and that's as far as they have to go at that time. After #300, they have an active interest in procuring the most powerful weapon in the universe, and they need the **Avengers** to help them acquire this. The **Avengers** will be unaware that they have become pawns in a much greater game. But they're smart guys; they'll figure it out sooner or later."

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. 75¢.

Major events are in store for CAPTAIN AMERICA over the coming year, including the final resolution of the saga of the **Captain** and the new **Captain America**! Scripter **Mark Gruenwald** gave us the low-down on his plans:

"#346 hearkens back to #343, where we met a group called the **Resistants**, which was a mutant liberation organization. One of the assignments the Government gives the new **Captain America** in connection to the mutant registration law is, 'There are unregistered mutants out there. Bring them in!' It's similar to draft evaders, and since in some cases, they have super powers, they need **Captain America** to handle it rather than local authorities. He'll be sent after a number of unregistered mutants, leading to a final confrontation with the **Resistants**. This is also a new baptism by fire for **Captain America**; in light of what he did last issue [when the **Watchdogs** kidnaped his parents], the Commission for Superhuman Activities in America is not really pleased with him. So his battle with the **Resistants** is really to redeem his reputation in their eyes. The issue guest stars **Freedom Force**, the mutants who work for the same Commission. Plus, we introduce a mystery character who will be taking on greater and more sinister implications in subsequent issues. I don't want to say too much more; let's just say that the head of the Commission reports to him. We'll start to slowly unravel the mystery of the Commission.

"#347 is called 'Vengeance.' **Captain America** tracks down **Left Winger** and **Right Winger** for revealing his identity on national television and consequently, for what happened to his parents. That takes place in a Texas oil field. It also features the return of a mystery villain — the villain that people were hoping we wouldn't bring back!

"#348 and #349 is a two-parter featuring **Flag-Smasher** and his organization, **Ultimatum's** greatest scheme. This is the third time **Flag-Smasher** will appear, and each time, he's got a more audacious scheme. This time, it'll be the worst one yet! These two issues will finally, finally bring the two **Captains, John Walker** and **Steve Rogers**, together in one adventure! As of #345, **Steve Rogers** has been a prisoner of the Commission, so in #348, **Steve Rogers** gets out of the Commission's prison — I won't say how or why or where right now. And so we will have a storyline which will feature **Captain America**, and **Battle Star** and the **Captain** and **D-Man** all against **Flag-Smasher** and **Ultimatum**. This will lead directly into #350's double-sized extravaganza, which will guest-star the **Avengers** and feature the climax to the storyline which has gone on for the last eighteen issues since **Captain America** was decommissioned by the Commission. We'll bring that to a conclusion in what I hope will be a satisfying manner.

"There will be some surprises in store, startling revelations and whatnot. It will also signal a new change which will begin in #350 in connection with THE AVENGERS.

"It should be good, I hope."

CLASSIC X-MEN

Classic tales written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**, new stories written by **Chris Claremont** and other writers, and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. $1.00.

CLASSIC X-MEN will continue to re-present time-honored tales from the **X-Men's** past. The coming year will spotlight landmark events such as **Kitty Pryde's** joining the team and **Phoenix's** slow metamorphosis into **Dark Phoenix**!

As an added bonus, every issue will contain a new story written by **Chris Claremont** and other writers which will help to flesh out and enrich our view of the **X-Men** and those around them.

The Mutant Misadventures of CLOAK AND DAGGER

Written by **Terry Austin** and penciled by **Dan Lawliss**. Mando offset. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

Cloak and **Dagger** will be leaving the pages of STRANGE TALES to once again star in a comic book of their own. Writer **Terry Austin** filled us in on his plans for the new series:

"I'm trying to bring back some of the supporting characters and open up the book a bit more. I'm trying to do some different kinds of stories," said **Terry**. "Some humor stories, and now, I'm in the middle of a science-fiction story, and who knows? I'm trying to mix it up, so the reader won't know when he picks it up what kind of story it'll be this month. Will it be romance or comedy? There's some romance coming, but it won't be between **Cloak** and **Dagger**."

Terry also gave us some more specific details on the first couple of issues of CLOAK & DAGGER: "The first issue is a wrap-up of a longer story from STRANGE TALES. **Dagger** winds up going up against **X-Factor**. **Cloak** is stuck in a basement rec room in a suburban household in Ohio and is being held captive by a five-year-old child, basically. He's trapped on a pool table in a mystic pentagram; he can't get off. And at the end of that issue, **Dagger** becomes blind!

"**Dagger's** in the hospital in the second issue. Meanwhile, **Cloak** gets involved with some aliens. They're traveling around the galaxy, picking up dangerous objects that they think the planetary inhabitants shouldn't be playing with. So at the end of the second issue, **Cloak** ends up in space."

Future issues will revolve around **Dagger** coping with her disability. "I've been doing research at the American Federation of the Blind on what happens to sighted people when they lose their sight . . . getting over the initial shock," **Terry** said. "We'll continue into the psychological aspects of **Dagger's** coping with the blindness. And of course, this will do strange things to the relationship between **Cloak** and **Dagger**. She has always been the one sort of in control. **Cloak** has depended on her for light and keeping him in check. Suddenly, she's not in control anymore. I think at first, he's probably going to kind of like that, and feel guilty for feeling that way."

There will also be "subplots involving **Mayhem** and the villains from STRANGE TALES, **Mr. Jip** and **Night**. The priest from the first series of CLOAK AND DAGGER will be back; he's out of the insane asylum . . . and he's not cured! So there's going to be some trouble there." More trouble will surface when **Mayhem's** ex-partner from the police force discovers that her grave is empty! When she investigates, she finds that "all the trails lead to **Cloak** and **Dagger**."

CONAN THE BARBARIAN

Written by **James C. Owsley** and **Michael Higgins**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Alfredo Alcala**. $1.00.

"**Conan** has made an enemy of **Emperor Strabonus** of Koth," writer **James Owsley** revealed. "**Strabonus** is really ticked at **Conan**, so he's gotten together with all the kings of the west. They're all on their way to central Koth to eliminate **Conan**. **Conan**, not wanting to be killed and not really interested in running for his life, figures he'll just beat it eastward and avoid all this. So when he sees this war starting up in Turan, he bids farewell to all these people he's been schlepping around with for the past two years and he heads across the desert.

"I guess for six issues or so, **Conan's** going to be essentially a loner, kind of like the movie HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER. It's been awhile, two or three years, since he's been a loner, going into these towns and getting into adventures. The stories are going to be dealing with his Cimmerian philosophy, challenging his father, sort of stuff like that. A lot of natural disasters, a lot more of the Hyborian World . . .

"The ultimate goal here is, around #215 or #216, **Conan's** going to encounter the **Kozakis**. The **Kozakis** have this home in the desert where they've been living like nomads. There's not much to their land; it's a lot of bush and the land is harsh, but it's their land and they like it. No central air conditioning, but they like it. The king of Turan, **Yildiz**, has decided to expand his empire because of strategic locations, stuff like that, so the land isn't very valuable, but in terms of keeping the armies of the West out of his back yard, they're fine. So what he's said is 'Okay, this desert be mine now,' colonizing big chunks of land that belong to the **Kozakis**. So they're sort of like freedom fighters, fighting this war of attrition against **King Yildiz**, and **Conan** links up with these **Kozakis**. Eventually, he becomes a leader there and harries the forts of Turan in Hyrkania to sort of repel them.

"What's going to happen is that a major heavy named **Achimedes** is going to present himself. And **Achimedes** is given these letters of rank to wipe out these people because they're annoying. He's supposed to ride around and eliminate these pesky **Kozakis**. He's a

pretty ruthless guy, and **Conan's** going to be brought into a major confrontation with this guy down along the line, so **Conan's** going to suffer something heavy.

"**Conan's** struggle with **Achimedes** will towards the end of the year, lead into an even greater struggle with the deadly **Lord of Akif, the Shah Amurath**!"

CONAN THE KING

Written by **James C Owsley**, and penciled and inked by **Geof Isherwood**, with back-up stories written by **Adam Blaustein** 48 pages. $1 50.

"Issue #50 begins a big, special deal for CONAN THE KING," **James Owsley** said "Basically, what we're doing is stopping the clock on the book and jumping back for the much-demanded conclusion to the 'Sorcerer's Ring' storyline begun back in issue #27 It picks up the continuity as of about issue #28, and everything that happens in CONAN THE KING #s 50 through 56 takes place continuity wise between issues #28 and 29

"There is this greedy baron in **King Conan's** court, **Baron Maloric Baron Maloric** wants **Conan** dead so that he can take over the throne To this end, he has hired this wizard, you know, 'have crystal ball, will travel' And he's only known as **the Wizard**,' a mysterious wizard with no name This guy has been hanging around the court, and at first, he was doing what **Maloric** wanted him to do but eventually, **Maloric** starts to do what the wizard wants him to do because **Maloric** is afraid of this guy. And you would be too

"This wizard has been cooling his heels in Aquilonia for some time, trying to find his ring Now, in issue #27, he almost finds the ring but just as he comes to get it, someone else has stolen it, and he's completely livid about it So where our story picks up is, **Maloric** is still trying to get his hands on the throne and the wizard is still trying to get his hands on his ring And this is, of course, the Serpent Ring of **Thoth-Amon**. The wizard is actually **Thoth-Amon** in disguise! **Thoth-Amon** will eventually contact this evil force and get his ring back and become a major challenge to **Conan's** throne if not his life

"Meanwhile, **Conan** has this son, **Prince Conn**, who's off in Khitai, and **Conn** hates his dad. So **Conan** has two things to do because 1) he has to save his kingdom from the evil, deadly **Thoth-Amon**, and 2) he has to win his son back again. And the two are interrelated, the only way **Conan** can beat **Thoth-Amon** is with his son's help."

CONAN SAGA

Written by **Roy Thomas** and illustrated by **John Buscema** and others. 64 pages A Marvel black and white magazine $2 00

CONAN SAGA will continue to re-present c assic tales from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN starring everyone's favorite Cimmerian We'll relive **Conan's** epic battles against threats both mystical and physical as we learn more about **Conan** and the savage world of the Hyborian Age

DAMAGE CONTROL

Written by **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **Ernie Colon** and inked by **Stan Drake**

"DAMAGE CONTROL is a sit-com set in the Marvel Universe," **Dwayne** told us. "It's about a group of people whose job is to clean up after super heroes break stuff

"In the first issue, they have to clean up a giant robot that the **Avengers** and **Spider-Man** beat up It's leaning against the World Trade Center They have to figure out how to move it Also, **Spider-Man**, who defeated the robot by sneaking inside to the control room and turning it off, is stuck there and can't get out! So they have to decide whether they can move the robot with him inside it or even if they should, because they're afraid of getting sued or something

"Look for lots of guest-stars. Early on, DAMAGE CONTROL will cross paths with the **punisher**, get a helping hand from **Iron Man**, and clean up some insurance problems for the **Fantastic Four** They'll also meet **Doctor Doom Doctor Doom** owes them money So one of the guys goes over to get him to pay his bills "

DAREDEVIL

Written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson** 75¢

"Before #259, we had the whole **Typhoid Mary** storyline, which led up to the **Kingpin** hiring her to destroy **Daredevil**," writer **Ann Nocenti** said. "That whole storyline culminates in a double-sized issue where **Daredevil** fights sort of all his past enemies, whether in reality or in a hallucinatory form. It's kind of a judgment day for him

"It all takes place during an anti-nuke rally I'm dealing with the idea of super heroes as a deterrent for other types of crime, the same way that a nuclear warhead is supposed to be a deterrent against war So in a sense, you could see warheads as peacemakers in the same way that super heroes see themselves as peacemakers because they have these powers that are bigger than human, and because of this, they keep the rest of humanity in line, supposedly. But that's only if they stay dormant. And these guys don't stay dormant; they're out there fighting all the time This double-sized issue is really one big fight, enemy after enemy, but it's got the feeling of a judgment day. He's up there and this is like the last day before he dies and they're judging him. He's judged pretty harshly, and he doesn't walk away from it. It's a 'live by the sword, die by the sword' sort of thing

"**Daredevil** basically ends up dead

"So now that he's gone, #260 features the **Human Torch** We get into a more personal view of the **Torch**, we really get under his skin He may be this big, flashy guy who can save the universe, but can he walk into a bar in Hell's Kitchen and keep everything cool? He can no more function in the street world of **Daredevil** than **Daredevil** can fly across the sky and save the world

"Then it gets kind of weird There's going to be a series of stories that don't even take place in the real world, they take place in someone's head

"The past stories have dealt a lot with the sets of paradoxes within **Daredevil**. He's layered with . . . you can call it schizophrenia, you can just call it conflict . . . and I've tried to look at that from a bunch of different angles. Now, I'm really going to try to mess around with those contradictions."

"Pretty much, I'll be putting **Doc** back into positive shape, but in DOCTOR STRANGE #1, just as you think everything's shaping up nicely, I'm going to pull something really nasty. The return of one of **Doctor Strange's** oldest foes, but in a way he's never been returned before!"

DOCTOR STRANGE AND DOCTOR DOOM: TRIUMPH AND TORMENT Graphic Novel

Written by **Roger Stern** and illustrated by **Mike Mignola**. $6.95

Roger told us that the Graphic Novel "involves a pact that **Strange** enters into with **Doom** — they go into Hades to save the soul of **Doom's** mother from **Mephisto**, where it's been for several decades.

"We meet a lot of other mystics in the course of this. Part of the action takes place in the Far East, where the aged **Ghenghis** has gathered together all the most powerful sorcerers in the world. That leads into the pact."

ELVIRA: THE MOVIE

Written by **Sid Jacobson**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. 48 pages. A Black and White Magazine. $2.00.

"ELVIRA: THE MOVIE concerns the very popular horror movie hostess **Elvira** whose first movie will be coming out this summer," editor **Bob Budiansky** explained.

"The movie is about **Elvira** inheriting a great-aunt's house in New England. And when she gets her inheritance, she discovers that there's a lot more to the house than she realized! There's a lot of people who are out to stop her from taking over the house, particularly her great-uncle, and a ghost.

"And it's also about how the rather puritanical townspeople react to the presence of **Elvira** in their village. That's where a lot of the humor comes from.

"It's a comedy and it's very funny, and eventually, there are all sorts of magical and witchcraft elements towards which it progresses."

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME

Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Dan Lawlis**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. Mando offset. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

This year will see the birth of a new direct sales only series for the Master of the Mystic Arts, spun off from his recent adventures in STRANGE TALES. As those who've been following STRANGE TALES know, **Doc's** been going through some tough times, first turning to black magic and then losing his humanity! Scripter **Peter B. Gillis** said the upcoming stories "can be summed up in a single sentence: 'He gets better!'

"For everybody — and there have been many people — who've sort of been chomping at me to restore **Doc** to his full stature. That has been my intention all along and that's what's going to happen. After having destroyed **Shuma-Gorath**, he is coming back. In the last issue of STRANGE TALES he became one with the universe. Now he has to come back to being finite **Doctor Strange** again. **Kaluu**, **Rintrah**, and the **Weaver** have to shepherd him back into finite consciousness, and in doing so, we learn some stuff we never knew before about **Strange**, like where he grew up and some aspects of his early life which made him the way he is. He will be coming back to the Sanctum, but he will not be lifting the spell of forgetfulness off everybody, just off Wong and Sara and the people inside the Sanctum.

EXCALIBUR

Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Alan Davis** and inked by **Paul Neary**. 32 pages. Baxter paper. $1.50.

"The first two issues involve the **Warwolves**, the third issue is the team moving into their new headquarters, the fourth issue features **Arcade** and the fifth and sixth basically set up and carry through the Inferno storyline," **Chris** revealed. "The gist of it is to get the book off and running as excitingly and evocatively and interestingly as possible, keeping with the basic concept that this is super heroing with a twist — the cosmic comedy caper book, high adventure with a slightly humorous vicious streak. The laughs are intentional.

"The team which was established in the special edition with the addition of **Widget**, who'll join in issue #5, is the team that will remain."

THE FANTASTIC FOUR

Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott** 75¢

Scripter **Steve Englehart** told us that after the current FANTASTIC FOUR storyline is wrapped up in #s 319 and 320, "we're going to have a fight between the new **Hulk** and the new **Thing**, which is connected into THE INCREDIBLE HULK #350

"Then, the **Frightful Four** will be returning." **Steve** couldn't tell us exactly which four villains would compose the team this time around, but the story should make a lot of people happy. "We've had a lot of requests for the **Frightful Four**," Steve noted

"The line-up of the **Fantastic Four** will fluctuate a bit as well: "By this time, people know that **Crystal** is leaving the group, but she will return. In the next year, we will have the climax of the **Johnny-Crystal-Alicia** situation."

THE FANTASTIC FOUR: FATHERS AND SONS Graphic Novel

Written by **Danny Fingeroth** and penciled by **Mark Bright**. $6 95

"This is the first **Fantastic Four** Graphic Novel," **Danny** said. "It stars the classic **FF**: **Reed**, **Sue**, **Ben**, and **Johnny**

"If the **Fantastic Four** legend is essentially the saga of a family, then FATHERS AND SONS is the ultimate **Fantastic Four** story. It's essentially a parallel between **Reed's** relationship with **Franklin** and **Quasimodo's** relationship with his father/creator, the **Mad Thinker**.

"It starts out with **Quasimodo** in an undifferentiated rage. He wants to strike back at the **FF** for all the evil they've done him But it's not that simple because he is a sentient being even though he's a machine and not human It comes down to **Quasimodo's** envy for all things human and yet, at the same time, he has this disdain for them His longing for revenge on all his enemies, including the **Thinker**, and yet his love for the **Thinker** as a father."

In pursuing his revenge, **Danny** said that "**Quasimodo** unleashes a world-wide threat which the **FF** must combat but in order to meet that threat, they'll have to make the ultimate sacrifice!"

And on top of all that, "we'll see the never-before-revealed origin of the **Thinker** and we learn why he created **Quasimodo** as a machine that could think, and why the emotions he gave him were so grotesque

"I've tried to write this in the tradition of the classic FANTASTIC FOUR stories, and **Mark** is doing a beautiful art job. It's a family/cosmic epic of Shakespearean proportions. Plus, there's a lot of great action and all the gadgetry you've come to know and love."

FELIX THE CAT

Written by **Laura Hitchcock** and penciled by **Howie Post**. 48 page color comic.

"FELIX THE CAT is based on a new animated movie being produced by New World," editor **Bob Budiansky** said "It features the legendary cartoon cat from the 1930s, '40s, '50s, and '60s " There will be action and laughs aplenty as **Felix** journeys into a parallel dimension to restore a princess to the throne that has been usurped from her!

G.I. JOE

Written by **Larry Hama** penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin** $1 00

As scripter **Larry Hama** told us, the aftermath of the War for Cobra Island will have far-reaching consequences for everyone's favorite Real American Heroes as well as for **Cobra** itself

"In G.I. JOE #78 we'll see what happens when the government tries to blame **Hawk** and the **Joes** for going beyond their parameters in the battle for Cobra Island," **Larry** said. "**Hawk** is made the scapegoat, and it's up to the **Joes** to get him out of hot water That's the actual resolution of the storyline from the previous four or five issues.

"G.I. JOE #79 is a single-issue adventure involving all the **G.I. Joe Dog Teams** and the **Dreadnoks**.

"From issue #80 onwards, **Destro** and the **Baroness** will set up a counter-organization to **Cobra** to undercut them. **Fred VII**, who was originally a **Crimson Guardsman**, is now **Cobra Commander**. And **Serpentor** is dead but stored away in a cryogenic storage tank by **Dr. Mindbender** for future use of his genetic material, so he will be back. The **Cobra** schism continues on into '88 in a different form. It's a three-way competition, with the **Zartan** siblings and the **Dreadnoks** also fighting for control of **Cobra**. And the **Joes** have to deal with all three factions.

"There'll also be a lot more homefront-type stuff and the establishment of a new Springfield headquarters in an as-yet undisclosed location."

G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS

Written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe** and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. $1.00

For the most part, G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS will continue to feature self-contained, single-issue stories. This format will continue, but as **Larry** explained, "there will be one or two two-parters; not continuing soap operas like in the regular JOE book, but self-contained two-parters. And there will be one crossover story that will begin in G.I. JOE and end up in G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS or vice versa."

Larry couldn't say too much about the individual stories that will appear in G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS over the next year, but he did reveal that "there will be an adventure in Canada involving the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for all of our many Canadian readers."

HERO Limited Series

Written by **David Michelinie** and penciled by **Steve Purcell**

"HERO is about **Cody Pace**, a self-centered, Me Generation security courier from Hoboken, New Jersey, who blows up on page six," **David** said. "But instead of going to Heaven or Hell, he goes to this fantasy world called **Peregrine-Magi**. There, he is pressed into fighting for the forces of good by a colorful cast of supporting character.

"Basically all he wants to do is go home and make the payment on his Corvette, it's going to be repossessed, and his condo is going to be foreclosed. He doesn't want to help anybody, he doesn't want to get involved. But he finds that he has this battle-pike called **Devil-thorn** which only he can wield, and it seems to do stuff that's impossible! And he keeps asking, 'What's going on? Why am I here? Why didn't I die?' And everyone says, 'Oh, we'll tell you right after you finish fighting these guys.' This keeps going on until the end of Chapter Three, when they finally get to the main bad guys on this world, and they defeat them but **Cody** is killed again and he fades out. Then, the four supporting characters kind of look at each other and say, 'Boy, is he going to be mad' and they fade out. And in Chapter Four, **Cody** wakes up on this 1950s science fiction world!" It's while Cody is on that world that he finally finds out just why all of this has been happening to him.

Summing up the Limited Series, **David** said, "Basically, it deals with what it takes to be a hero. **Cody** and the four supporting characters all have heroism to a certain extent, but there's a point you can't go beyond because you just don't have it in you unless you're a true hero. And of course, **Cody Pace** is the antithesis of true heroism. So what happens when the whole fate of the universe is placed on his shoulders?"

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

Written by **Peter David** and penciled by **Jeff Purves**. 75¢

The coming year will see a drastically different direction for the **Gray Gargoyle**. As **Peter David** explained, "At this point, utterly confused readers have discovered that the **Hulk** did not die in the gamma ray explosion but in fact is the chief leg-breaker for a top gangster in Las Vegas!

"We'll be doing stories over the next year that will be exploring aspects of, a) the **Hulk** and b) Las Vegas. We're going to be doing an

issue in which everybody gets everything that they've always wanted. We're also going to be bring back a character called **Glorian**, who is the most pure character in the Marvel Universe, he's going to be trying to make Las Vegas a nice, pure town, which of course is going to bring him head-to-head against the **Hulk**. The question will be, 'Will **Glorian** be able to bring the **Hulk** up to his level, or is the **Hulk** going to wind up bringing **Glorian** down?" Tune in in a few months to find out whether the book will change from THE INCREDIBLE HULK to THE INCREDIBLE GLORIAN.

"Then, just as the fans are utterly confused, we're going to explain what happened and how the **Hulk** got to Las Vegas in the first place."

In addition, future issues will play host to some fairly familiar faces. "We will be having guest-star appearances by **Spider-Man** and the **Thing**, arising from **Dr. Doom's** efforts to recruit the **Hulk** for his plans for world conquest. We'll have a **Spider-Man** story that will begin in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN and cross over into THE HULK #349 and I'll be writing both. #350 will be the **Hulk** meets the **Thing** slugout, which a lot of people have been asking for, so they're going to get it. And considering that the **Hulk** is not as strong as he was and the **Thing** is stronger than he was, it should be a rather interesting match-up."

THE INHUMANS Graphic Novel

Written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Bret Blevins** and inked by **Al Williamson**. $6.95

A blessed event turns out not to be so blessed for the **Inhumans** in this Graphic Novel. As writer **Ann Nocenti** explained, "**Medusa** gets pregnant and the **Inhumans'** Genetics Council, since they're supposed to determine these things, basically says, 'Abort it!' And she says 'No way!' and takes off. It's a reversal on the pro-choice question about abortion.

"So it's sort of a dethroning of the **Inhumans'** Royal Family. It's royalty when it's reached such a crusty, old, inbred point that the only thing the royalty can do is just topple off the throne. All the **Inhumans** come to Earth, and there's a big split in the Royal Family. **Crystal** tries to clean up the world around them because they have a problem breathing the air, and basically, the planet attacks back."

IRON MAN

Plotted by **David Michelinie** and **Bob Layton**, scripted by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Jackson Guice**, and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢

"#235 and 236 are two complete stories that tie together. We get into the background of one of the supporting characters, **Marcy Pearson**, who's head of public relations for Stark Enterprises. A friend of hers has disappeared and everything seems to be tied in to this artist named **Paul St. Pierre**, who's the darling of the southern California art scene. He sculpts incredibly realistic, lifelike statues of women in terror. This friend of **Marcy's** was a reporter in San Diego, and it looks like she stumbled across a mass of serial killings. There's an insidious plot and there may be a super-powered supervillain behind it.

"#237 is a one-issue story. It's pure **Iron Man**. It takes place in outer space and involves a thing in the Stark space station. The new **Iron Man** stalks this thing, but the idea is 'Who is stalking whom?' It involves a secret government project in space, all kinds of nifty stuff, and **Iron Man's** new armor's new powers. It's got some really nifty stuff.

"The issue after that is going to be a solidifying issue, bringing together a lot of the things we haven't touched on after the Armor Wars: what **Iron Man's** position with Stark Enterprises is, what Stark Enterprises does, what the public's reaction to **Iron Man** is, and we also set up a couple of sub-plots which will probably (but not definitely) involve the reappearance of the **Ghost**, who's a character **Bob Layton** and I came up with a year or so ago, and it will probably involve **Justin Hammer**. **Justin Hammer's** been in and out of the series, but we haven't been focusing on him; he's mostly been behind the scenes. So we'll probably do a close-focus story on **Justin Hammer** within this **Ghost** storyline.

"We are introducing a new **Mandarin** — not the old **Mandarin**, a totally new **Mandarin**. He will be the Orient's answer to the **Kingpin**, a crimelord of the Orient, very steeped in Oriental tradition. **Tony Stark** will go to Shanghai to try to set up an Oriental office for Stark Enterprises, but everywhere he turns, people say, 'Well, we'd like to help you, but we have to ask this guy.' All paths lead to this guy, who is the **Mandarin**."

LONGSHOT

Written by **Ann Nocenti** and drawn by **Art Adams**. $1.00

Having been introduced in a Limited Series before his stint with **the X-Men**, **Longshot** will be returning to a brand new *unlimited* series which will span worlds . . . literally! Scripter **Ann Nocenti** filled us in on what the series will be about.

"The original LONGSHOT Limited Series was about stripping a man down to nothing, he doesn't know where he's from or his name, he doesn't know who he is, just a complete clean slate. But in the meantime, he's lively, almost like a puppy; he's got the sense of being a stumbling little puppy.

"LONGSHOT is kind of a revival of that feeling where he goes on a journey to find out who he is and he's got all of these essential questions. Only he's also got **Mojo** chasing him and **Mephisto** interested in him as an incorruptable soul. The idea is that if **Mephisto** can corrupt an incorruptable soul, it's the key to the corruption of all humanity.

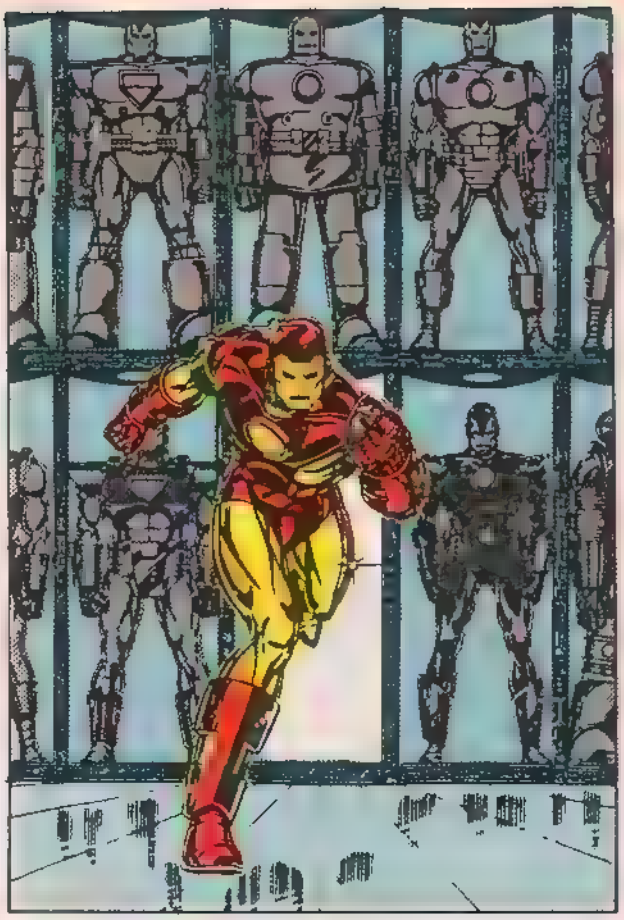
"**Longshot** keeps getting things thrown in his path. And every issue is going to throw him into a completely different universe. So one issue, he's going to enter the world of the dead, and one issue he's going to go into a future world where he meets ageing heroes, and stuff like that. Each issue, he meets different heroes. So each issue has a specific mood, almost like stepping into a different genre.

"I also want to get into what it's like for **Mephisto** to be immortal and the **Devil Mephistso** really has nobody in his league to play with."

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE

Written by some of the brightest talents in the Marvel galaxy of stars. Direct Sales only. 50¢

How could we review all of the upcoming projects from Marvel and leave out MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE itself? We asked editor **Jim Salicrup** to fill us in on what the magazine will be like over the next twelve months. Here's what he told us:



"It's more of the same exciting stuff we've been doing all along. But for those people who haven't been following MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, I can run down what's in each and every issue.

"We have **covers**. Usually highlighting some new, exciting project, drawn by the artist who does the project. We have some great covers, actually. And we have **Irving Forbush** in our corner symbol every month.

"**Coming Attractions** gives a full month's preview of what's coming up in all the Marvel, Star Epic, and New Universe titles.

"**The Super-Villain Checklist** — so that one could see at a glance whether their favorite super-villains are back or not.

"**Newswatch** — more exciting news about what's coming up at Marvel and behind-the-scenes stuff concerning writers, artists, editors, et cetera, et cetera. It also includes **the Top Ten** which tells us what's doing well in the direct sales market.

"**The Mutant Report** — a special section devoted to mutants, which tells us what's going on in all the various mutant titles, which are a world unto themselves.

"**The Marvel Trivia Quiz** — For those who think they know what's going on in the Marvel Universe, we dare them to take the Marvel Trivia Quiz. Even if they don't know the answers, sometimes the quiz is so funny, it's worth reading anyway.

"**Stan Lee's Soapbox** — What could be better than that, except maybe an episode of WILLIE LUMPKIN every month? It's **Stan the Man** himself, co-creator of most of the Marvel Universe to begin with, and he goes on and on about what Marvel's doing out in Hollywood in television and movies.

"The Sage of MARVEL AGE himself, **Fred Hembeck**, has the centerspread every issue, offering his unique insights into what's coming up from mighty Marvel.

"And although not on a regular basis, we've had **the Epic Spotlight**, **the Star Spotlight**, and I imagine we'll have **the New Universe Spotlight** from time to time, focusing on new information from those departments.

"**The MARVEL AGE Interview** — almost self-explanatory. We try to go after people working on the most exciting projects at Marvel and get them to talk about what they're doing.

"**The Marvel Age** article is a year-by-year review of everything Marvel's published since the beginning. We go back so we're not always focusing on what's coming up, we spend time remembering our heritage. It always includes a **Marvel Comics Price Guide**.

which gives you a pretty good idea of what you can expect to pay for these things at your favorite comic book shop in their back issue department

"Then last, and certainly not least, is our wonderful **Letters Column**. Three whole pages of sensational letters from our favorite people in the whole world, not to mention the answers to the Trivia Quiz and **Marvel Correspondents**, a special pen pal column

"All this plus cover stories including previews of what's coming up in new series or an established title being revamped, and once a year, we have our preview of the Marvel Annuals

"All this and more is coming your way in the new, 1988-89 MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE!"

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

Written and drawn by various creative teams. 32 pages. $1.25

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS is a bi-weekly series, each issue of which contains four action-packed stories. Three of the stories are multi-part epics, and the fourth is a self-contained tale. Editor **Terry Kavanagh** gave us the lowdown on what to expect over the next year:

"We have plans for an ETERNALS series written by **Roy Thomas** and penciled by **Mark Texeira**. It picks up from the ETERNALS Limited Series, it's the **Eternals** today and shows the effects of what happened in the Limited Series. There's going to be a second MASTER OF KUNG FU series at some point in the future, written by **Doug Moench**, I'm not sure who the penciler will be. There's going to be **Killraven** and the War of the Worlds written by **Don McGregor** and illustrated by **P. Craig Russell**, the old team from 'way back when. We're talking to **Doug Moench** about a **Deathlok** series. Writer **Ann Nocenti** and penciler **Rick Leonardi** are going to be doing **Colossus**; that'll probably be the lead feature after the **Wolverine** story wraps up. The **Colossus** story will lead in somewhat to a COLOSSUS Graphic Novel. There's a **Young Gods** series written by **Gerry Conway**; the **Young Gods** were introduced in THOR a long time ago. The **Young Gods** represent the twelve great accomplishments of man. Basically, the **Young Gods** split up into two groups — one which believes the most morally ethical thing they could do is protect mankind from any outside influences but allow them to make all their own mistakes and develop morally and ethically on their own, and the other thinks mankind is its own worst enemy and has to be protected from its own worst influences."

MARVEL FANFARE

Written and illustrated by various writers and artists. 32 pages. Hudson paper. Direct Sales only. $1.95

Editor **Al Milgrom** revealed that a number of much-requested projects will appear over the coming year.

"During the coming year," Al said, "we will be running the long-awaited, much-ballyhooed, still-not-done-yet, all-pin-up issue of MARVEL FANFARE. There's no story whatsoever, but what it's going to be is 32 or 33 pages of pin-ups by many of the best artists in the field. Contributing artists will include **Art Adams**, **Mike Mignola**, **Frank Miller**, **Walt Simonson**, **Marshall Rogers**, **Howard Chaykin**, **Jim Starlin**, **Mike Zeck** and **Jerry Ordway**, **Paul Smith**, and on and on," **Al** said. "32 top-notch guys."

"Hopefully, this year, I'll be running a long-awaited (also) **Spider-Man/Hulk** story written by **Bill Mantlo** and drawn by **Mike Golden**. I've also got a **Sub-Mariner** story by **Bill Mantlo** and **Mike Mignola**, it's the **Sub-Mariner** meets a buccaneer queen in a sort of fantasy story. I've got a **Doctor Strange** story in the works by **Alan Weiss**; **Doc** travels through time into the past and winds up where **Alan** most likes to draw things — in the Old West. The title of the story is 'Strange on the Range,' and it's very strange on the range. He goes back and meets a shaman who, if his schemes go correctly, could change the course of modern history. He tries to beat this shaman with the help of **Nick Fury** and **Dum Dum Dugan** of all people! They go back with their automatic weapons and outdraw everybody.

"Hopefully, some time this year, I may be able to make use of a still-being-completed **Black Knight** trilogy. I've also got . . . oh, wait, this is exciting! I've got another **Doctor Strange** story, written by **Walt Simonson** and drawn by **Dave Gibbons**. It picks up on the **Doctor Strange** Graphic Novel **J. Marc DeMatteis** and **Dan Green** did and takes it from there. **Dave's** doing the penciling, inking, lettering, and I believe he's going to color it as well." The springboard for the story takes off from the DOCTOR STRANGE: SHAMBALLA Graphic Novel, but has less of an introspective orientation than the Graphic Novel. Between it and the other **Doctor Strange** story, there should be enough mystical adventure coming up to satisfy even the most discerning of appetites!

MARVEL TALES

Written by **Gerry Conway** and others, penciled by **Ross Andru** and others, and inked by **Mike Esposito** and others. With back-up stories starring **Spider-Ham** written by **Michael Eury**, **Fred Hembeck**, and others and drawn by **Joe Albelo**, **Alan Kupperberg**, **Cindy Martin**, and others. 75¢

"MARVEL TALES is re-presenting in chronological order the early **Punisher-Spider-Man** team-ups, which is most of the early appearances of the **Punisher**," editor **Jim Salicrup** said. "All this with new covers by **Mike Zeck**. The issues being run are:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #s 161, 162, 174, 175, 201 and 202, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #15; and SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #s 79, 81–83.

"And as if that weren't enough, we try to squeeze in a **Spider-Ham** story, all-new material about everybody's favorite **Spider-Pig**."

MARVEL MASTERWORKS

Written by **Stan Lee**, and illustrated by **Jack Kirby** and **Steve Ditko**. Edited and packaged by **Craig Anderson**. Hardcover. $29.95.

"MARVEL MASTERWORKS will be four volumes this year," **Craig** told us. "They'll possibly be out by Thanksgiving this time around, that's what we're shooting for. They will all definitely be out by Christmas.

"There'll be THE AVENGERS, we'll be reprinting the first ten issues of that, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN issues #11 through 20; the same with THE FANTASTIC FOUR, but with THE X-MEN,

we're doing issues #11 through 21 because X-MEN #20 was the first part of a very intense two-part story and we thought it would be unfair to the fans to divide the story like that."

Craig said that the four hardcover volumes would be "high-quality, but even higher-quality than last time. We have more time to work on them this year, and we're getting even more detail-oriented."

THE 'NAM

Written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Wayne Vansant**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

Scripter **Doug Murray** told us that in the course of the coming year, THE 'NAM will reach a major landmark in the Vietnam War. "Issue #24, 25 is the Tet Offensive, which is essentially the turning point of the Vietnam War, so we cover it in some length."

But even though THE 'NAM is progressing in real time, **Doug** added that spending an extra month on Tet will not disrupt the regular continuity. "Even though the Tet Offensive occupied only about 24 hours in most of Vietnam, in a way, it occupied about four weeks," he said.

"Issue #26 and 27 will be the aftermath of Tet, both in Vietnam and what's going on back home. And from issue #28 on, we'll be introducing some new characters because most of our existing characters will have rotated back home by then. And we'll be watching how the war sways, because that's the time period when we started pouring more and more troops in and putting more and more restrictions on what they could do.

"By the end of the year, we'll see the ARVN trying to do everything with the American help and America trying to disengage a bit as the talks with the Viet Cong really start to get underway, starting with secret talks around issue #28 or 29."

THE NEW MUTANTS

Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Bret Blevins**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. $1.00.

As the period covered by our preview begins, **Louise Simonson** said, "the **New Mutants** are off in outer space fighting a villain called **Spyder** and his network of evildoers called the **Web**. **Spyder** has kidnaped [mutant rock star] **Lila Cheney**. **Illyana** is starting to have these feelings that things aren't right in Limbo, which they're not."

In fact, the troubles in Limbo are what will bring about the Inferno storyline which will cross over into THE X-MEN, X-FACTOR, and EXCALIBUR (among other titles) this fall. And **Illyana** herself is one of the main causes of Inferno! As **Louise** explained, "**Illyana's** just been tossing people into Limbo left and right and calling on her sword whenever necessary. And each of these things is contributing to a breakdown of the barrier between Limbo and Earth. Finally, the barrier completely rips, and Limbo and the demons from Limbo pour into Manhattan, setting off the Inferno!"

The Inferno storyline will carry through September, October, and November. But even after the **New Mutants** make it through Inferno, their troubles still won't be over yet! "In December, we travel to Nova Roma to meet **Amara's** betrothed, and discover the Hellfire Club's involvement in what's happening in Nova Roma.

"Also, the new alien girl we introduced in NEW MUTANTS #67, **Gosamyr**, may or may not join the team. It depends on how much we like her."

NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. Limited Series

Written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Paul Neary**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder**. 48 pages. A Marvel Graphic Album. $3.50.

This startling Limited Series will reach its climax in the coming months, and as scripter **Bob Harras** explained, there will be more than a few surprises along the way!

"In issue #4, the action shifts to Los Angeles. It involves **Tony Stark** and gets deeper and deeper into the mystery surrounding **S.H.I.E.L.D.** In issue #5, **Nick** goes to Hong Kong, where he discovers the **Hydra** connection with **S.H.I.E.L.D.**, which will stun and shock **Nick** because everything stuns and shocks **Nick**."

THE PUNISHER

Written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Whilce Portacio**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. $1.00.

"All my **Punisher** stories, I'm trying to base on real crimes and criminals," said scripter **Mike Baron**. In the coming year, THE PUNISHER will contain tales based on the real-life exploits of mass-murderer/cult leader **Charles Manson**, among others.

"In issues #13 and 14, the **Punisher** breaks a serial killer out of prison to kill him himself, because he's been on Death Row for six years and he's had nine stays of execution . . . it doesn't look like they're ever going to get him. First, the **Punisher's** going to force him to get him to reveal the hiding places of all the women he's raped and murdered and then he's going to execute him. But unbeknownst to him, this mass-murderer has been in touch with a **Squeaky Fromme**-type, **'Squeaky'** has this army of half-crazed, acid-head criminals, and they're going to try to bust the killer loose. So that ends up in a big donnybrook in the California mountains.

"The story after that is called 'Social Studies,' and in it, the **Punisher** takes a job as a substitute teacher in an inner-city high school, because he's trying to get a handle on a youth gang that might be trying to make a deal with the Syrians to commit terrorist incidents in the United States! I don't know if you know this, but there's a gang in Chicago called **El Rukns**. A whole bunch were just tried and convicted of trying to commit terrorist acts in the U.S. They've been in touch with **Muammar Khaddafy** from prison! They called up **Khaddafy** and said, 'Listen, do you want us to blow anything up in the U.S.? Send us money.' They were in negotiations when they were discovered. That's all true.

"In the story, unbeknownst to the **Punisher**, this group of kids has ties to the **Kingpin**, because the **Kingpin** has his fingers in everything. This leads up to a big event in either issue #15 or 16: The **Punisher's** going to war with the **Kingpin**! He realizes he can't do it alone, so he puts together a little team which includes (of course) **Microchip**, this prison guard woman whom he meets in the **'Squeaky Fromme'** story, and a couple of guys he meets in the high school story. I'm not sure where this is going to lead, except that there's going to be a lot of mayhem, as usual."

THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL

Written by **Carl Potts**, layouts by **Carl Potts** and finished art by **Jim Lee** Mando offset paper $1 25.

"THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL will cross over with the Marvel Universe more than THE PUNISHER," writer **Carl Potts** said "We'll be exploring more the **Punisher**'s motivation and thought processes. In the first issue we get new information about who the **Punisher** is."

The first three issues will find the **Punisher** in a running conflict with **Daredevil** In issue #4 a new villain, **Sniper**, will be introduced Issues 6 and 7 will be a two-part story set in Africa in which the **Punisher** will meet **Wolverine** for the first time "After that, he'll be running into **Spider-Man**, **Kingpin** . . . probably the lesser superpowered characters," **Carl** said

The **Punisher** will be traveling all over the world, returning to South America, visiting both the Near East and the Far East. In addition, the **Punisher** will suffer a near-crippling injury. This will make him a lot more vulnerable, and when his enemies hear of his condition, the Punisher will find himself in more trouble than he's ever had before.

THE PUNISHER Graphic Novel "Intruder"

Written by **Mike Baron** and illustrated by **Bill Reinhold** $6 95

As the graphic novel opens, **Mike** explained, "the **Punisher's** staked out what he thinks is a main connection in Colombian cocaine traffic in suburban Chicago, and he thinks the guy's waiting for a major shipment at his house So he's up in this water tower watching the house, and while he's watching, all these squad cars pull up at the house next door These paramilitary types pour out, break down the door, they pour in, he hears a bunch of shots, and a minute later, they pour out and roar away! He thinks, 'What are those guys doing? That's the wrong house!' So he gets a real bad feeling He races down to the house and finds a whole family wiped out! What happened was, the yo-yo's did have the wrong house! This is based on a real story, too. What happened was, the guy thought his house was being invaded, he grabbed a gun to defend himself, they took one look at him, and they blew him away! They realized what they'd done and they got out.

"So the **Punisher** forgets all about this cocaine guy and he says 'I'm going to get these guys' It turns out they're a super-secret agency with some ties to the government, some ties to a Korean organization that's trying to push Fundamentalist Christianity, kind of like the **Reverend Sun Myung Moon**

"What this leads up to is a confrontation in the Utah desert where these guys have a headquarters set up, kind of like an aircraft carrier, only it's on a butte It's going to involve a jet dogfight between the main villain (who's kind of a **Punisher** opposite) in an F-14 and the **Punisher** in an A-6 Intruder, so there's going to be heavy air warfare."

Mike stresses that "the **Punisher** *will* be flying! How does the **Punisher** know how to fly? It's all in the story!"

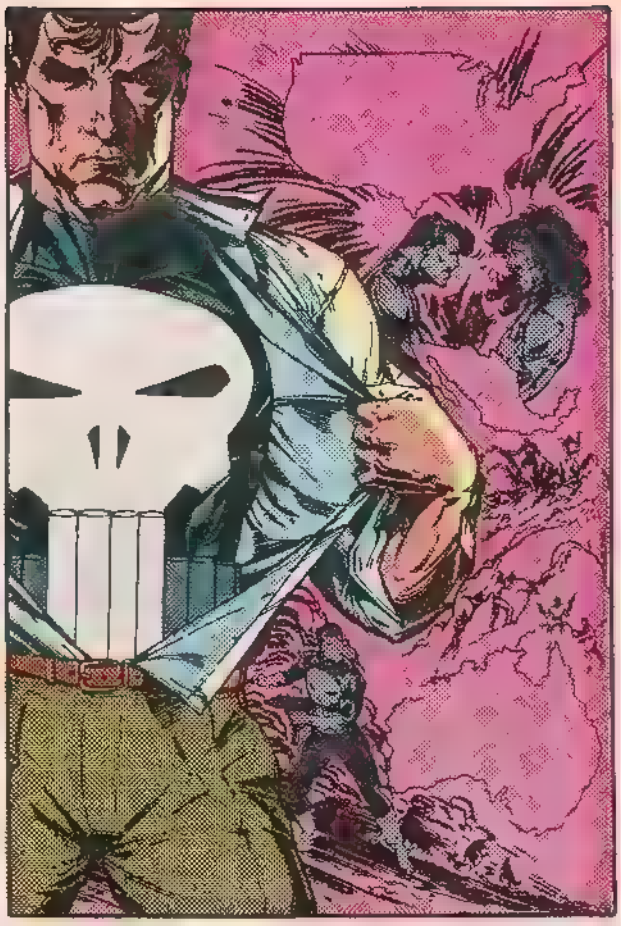
THE PUNISHER Graphic Novel "Assassin's Guild"

Written by **Jo Duffy** and illustrated by **Jorge Zaffino**. 64 pages. $6 95

The **Punisher** takes on the New York City underworld Only this time he has allies — but they're the kind he hates even more than the criminals. They're members of an assassins' guild and they're after the same men the **Punisher** is.

"It's a story about corruption and power brokerage," editor **Carl Potts** said "It's a very dark and moody story. The **Punisher** keeps encountering people who are not what they seem to be."

Though people in the United States may not be familiar with him **Carl** said of the graphic novel's artist, "**Jorge** is a famous international artist who has won many awards. He brings a distinctive, film noir style to Marvel's grittiest hero. I think people are going to really like what they see."



PUNISHER/DAREDEVIL Limited Series

Written by **Ann Nocenti** and illustrated by **Klaus Janson** A Marvel Graphic Album Limited Series $3 50

Ann told us that this Limited Series will be done as a series of four Graphic Albums. "It's about the nature of secrets and covertness," she said "There's a lot of C I A stuff and a lot of monstrous lies that turn out to be true. It gets into the whole question of 'How can a covert organization exist if all it does is breed more and more secrets and more and more nasty stuff?' **Daredevil** and the **Punisher** get into the middle of that

"We also get into some stuff about the **Punisher's** past to show why he is what he is."

THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN

Written by **Chuck Dixon** penciled by **Gary Kwapisz** and others, and inked by **Ernie Chan** and others A Marvel black and white magazine For Mature Readers. $2 00

Editor **Craig Anderson** told us that the savage Cimmerian's black and white magazine will be taking on something of a new direction in the coming months.

"SAVAGE SWORD will be going back to being more like the original **Robert E. Howard** stories," **Craig** said "There was always an element of sorcery or magic That doesn't mean we're going to have a sorcerer or monster every issue, it just means that, just as in today's world we're surrounded by technology, in Conan's world, the constant background was the supernatural Back in ancient times — and in primitive societies today — they did believe in the spirit world.

spirits like the wind spirit and the sun spirit and the earth spirit. Things were very much like that in **Conan's** time, except that the spirits physically manifested themselves."

But lest you think that **Conan** will become any less savage in the months to come, **Craig** was quick to point out that "there will still be swords and slashing and wars and battles" as well!

The look of SAVAGE SWORD may vary a bit as well. "I'm experimenting with new artists," **Craig** told us. "We'll be seeing more variety and different art styles and different interpretations of **Conan**."

SEMPER FI

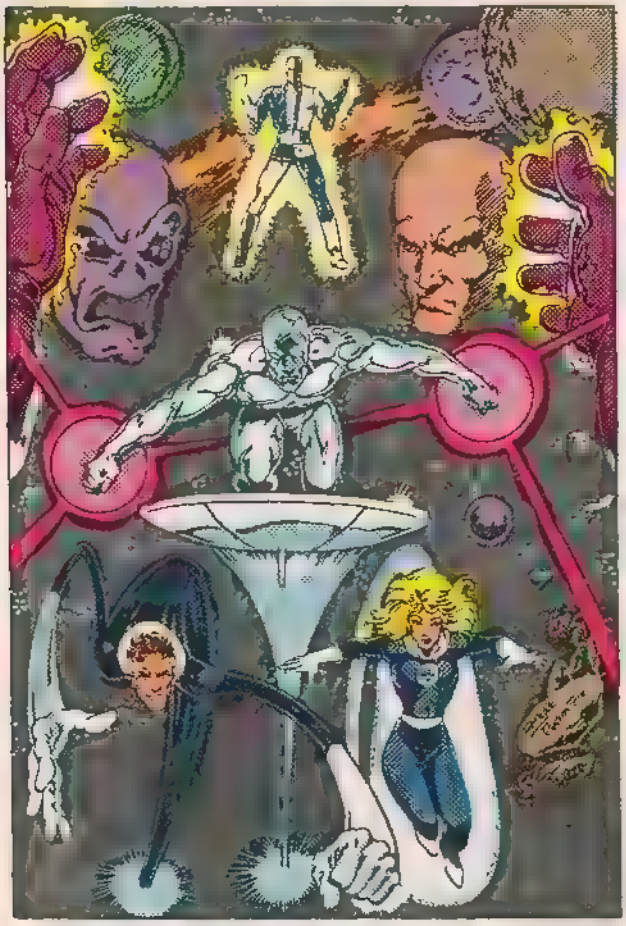
Written by **Michael P. Palladino** and illustrated by **John Severin** and **Sam Glanzman**. 75¢

Anyone who's interested in THE 'NAM will certainly want to pick up a copy of SEMPER FI! Scripter **Michael P. Palladino** described the new series as "a story about the Marine Corps that covers the birth of the Marine Corps in 1775 and goes through the present day. I hope to cover a lot of aspects of American history and Marine Corps history.

"The stories are told through the eyes and ears of the **Whittier** family and their cousins, the Gimbel family. At least one **Whittier** and one Gimbel has been in the Marines for every year that the Corps has been in existence. The characters are constantly continuing, and we'll see them at various stages in their life."

Unlike THE 'NAM, SEMPER FI will not progress chronologically in real time. (After all, it would take two hundred years to complete the series!) **Michael** ran through the settings of the first few issues for us. "Since there are two stories per issue, I've had to jump around quite a bit. In the issues I've done so far, I've covered World War II, Vietnam, the Boxer Rebellion, the Nicaraguan campaign, and Lebanon in 1983. I'll probably do Lebanon in '58, Korea, and every other period of history I can find.

"The military is a part of our history. We're raised on war. And a lot of people have a lot of wrong ideas about war. Sometimes it's glorious, sometimes it's not so glorious. I plan on showing both parts of it."



THE SILVER SURFER

Written by **Steve Englehart** and penciled by **Ron Lim**. $1.00.

"The **Surfer** and **Reed** and **Sue Richards** go into a black hole to try to retrieve the Soul Gems and come back instead with somebody who could give **Galactus** a run for his money! In fact, **Galactus** goes through a lot of suffering before it's over. It's like Pandora's Box — they go in for one thing and wind up coming out with something that's a major threat to the universe.

"We're thinking about doing a storyline concerning the return of **Thanos**, who's been dead for many years. But at the level the **Surfer's** working at these days, **Death** is just somebody else to deal with. I will not be bringing back **Warlock**, but **Thanos** [being **Death's** lover] has a pretty easy option for getting back."

One character who's only *seemed* to be dead is **Mantis**. She'll be appearing in WEST COAST AVENGERS, but **Steve** said that she'll have lost her memory, "so nobody knows that she was with the **Surfer**, including **Mantis** herself, and nobody ever sees the **Surfer** on Earth, so nobody can tell the **Surfer** that this woman he's mourning is actually alive! But there will be further developments with the **Surfer's** love life down the line."

THE SILVER SURFER Graphic Novel

Plotted, penciled, and inked by **John Buscema** and scripted by **Stan Lee**. $6.95.

Over the coming year, **Stan Lee** will be writing not one but two epic tales starring the **Silver Surfer**! Unlike the SILVER SURFER Limited Series, which he is plotting as well as scripting, **Stan** stresses that "the plot for the Graphic Novel was written by **John Buscema**, and the pages were given to me to script. I did what I always do. I kept to the main structure of the plot as it had already been done, but I made a number of changes to the story. Basically, though, the story is **Buscema's**.

"The story's about the **Silver Surfer** running into **Nova** [who's the latest being to take the **Surfer's** place as the herald of **Galactus**] out in space. And **Mephisto** is still trying to regain the **Surfer's** soul. So **Mephisto** comes up with a plan which involves **Nova** and **Galactus**, and it looks as though this time, the **Surfer** really doesn't have a chance. This time, he's really going to have to let **Mephisto** get his soul in order to save the rest of the universe! But at the last minute, he thinks of a way out and aided by **Galactus**, he turns the tables on **Mephisto**."

THE SILVER SURFER "Parable"

Written by **Stan Lee** and illustrated by **Moebius**. A Two Issue Limited Series. 32 pages. $1.00.

In contrast with the SILVER SURFER Graphic Novel which **Stan** is scripting, **Stan** says, "I wrote the entire storyline. This plot is mine. So each SILVER SURFER is a different example of the way I work.

"PARABLE has more religious overtones and more philosophy than the Graphic Novel. There's a TV evangelist whose philosophy is very different from the **Silver Surfer's**. He has a daughter, and the daughter gets involved with the **Silver Surfer**. **Galactus** enters into it, too. And the world turns against the **Silver Surfer**, in the end, the **Surfer** has to make the world hate him.

"I don't want to say too much about it because there are a lot of surprises. It's not the typical **Silver Surfer**. I think it's one of the best stories I've come up with in years! It's very dramatic, and I absolutely cannot wait to see how **Moebius** illustrates it!"

SOLO AVENGERS

Written by **Tom DeFalco** and others, penciled by **Mark Bright** and others, and inked by **Jose Marzan** and others. 75¢.

As always, each issue of SOLO AVENGERS will feature not one but two exciting tales. One story stars **Hawkeye** in stunning solo action, and the other is a rotating feature centering on a different **Avenger** in each issue. Managing editor **Greg Wright** gave us a rundown on who'll most likely turn up in this year's solo stories.

"Issue #11 will be **Hercules** by writer and penciler **Bob Layton** and inker **Jackson Guice**. **Dionysus** is determined to commit suicide now that all the other Greek gods have left Olympus, and **Hercules** must stop him. Issue #12 will probably feature the **She-Hulk** by **Chris Claremont, Alan Davis**, and **Joe Rubinstein**. **She-Hulk** gets into a *big* fight with **Titania** and beats the crap out of her."

Future stories will feature: **Wonder Man** written by **Gregory Wright** and **Dwayne McDuffie** and illustrated by **Jackson Guice**; **Ant-Man** written by **David Michelinie** and **Bob Layton**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Bob Layton** ("It's **Ant-Man** versus the **Hulk**," **Greg** revealed); **Mockingbird** versus the **Black Widow**, written by **Gregory Wright** and drawn by **Steve Geiger**; the **Wasp** versus **Red Ronin**, written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Tom Morgan**, and inked by **Mark McKenna**; the **Black Panther**, written and penciled by **Sandy Plunkett** and inked by **Kevin Nowlan**; the **She-Hulk** written by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**, penciled by **Kerry Gammill**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**; **Moondragon**, written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Jack Abel**; the **Sub-Mariner**, written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Kevin Maguire**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**; **Hercules**, written and penciled by **Bob Layton** ("It may have **Barry Windsor-Smith** inking it," **Greg** said); the **Scarlet Witch**, written by **Kieron Dwyer** and **Sara Tuchinsky**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, the **Swordsman**, illustrated by **Don Heck**, **Starlox** (in which **Starlox** has to rescue his old flame **Hester Delight**), written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Tom Artis**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**; **Captain Marvel** ("**Captain Marvel** travels back to meet **Dracula** in the past") written by **Dennis Malonee**, penciled by **Bob Hall**, inked by **Bill Sienkiewicz**, and colored by **Sandy Plunkett**; the **Black Knight**, written by **Gregory Wright** and **Dwayne McDuffie**, penciled by **Alan Davis**, and inked by **Paul Neary**; **Tigra**, written by **Daryl Edelman**, penciled by **Tom Lyle**, and inked by **Mark McKenna**; **Rick Jones**, written by **Glenn Herdling** and **Dwight Jon Zimmerman** and penciled by **Rodney Ramos**; and a **Yellowjacket** story written by **Howard Mackie** which will coincide with the AVENGERS ANNUAL.

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

Written by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Sal Buscema**. $1.00.

"There's going to be a little more continuity back and forth between WEB and SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN," **Gerry Conway** told us. "There will be overlapping stories, though not stories actually continuing from one book to the next.

"The first thing I'm going to do is I'm going to be trying to bring back some of the older rogue's gallery characters who have fallen by the wayside in the last few years. I'll try to revive them in interesting ways that redefine the characters. I'm going to bring back the **Vulture**, for instance, **Boomerang**, **Doctor Octopus**, the **Circus of Crime**.

"At the same time, I'm going to be bringing in some new characters. I have a pair of villains coming up in four or five months called the **Lobo Brothers**, who are a pair of supernatural gangbords. They'll be in both SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and WEB.

"Another subplot I'm going to be dealing with is **Robbie Robertson's** rehabilitation. After his encounter with **Tombstone**, he's going to have to go through some heavy physical therapy, and that's going to be an ongoing thing.

"I'm also going to be introducing a new character, a cousin of **Mary Jane Watson's**, a sixteen-year-old girl who's going to come to live with **Peter** and **MJ** for a while. She develops a crush on **Peter** and wants to take him away from **MJ**. At the same time, she wants to emulate **Mary Jane** and become a big-time model like her. She's going to be kind of a light element in the series for for awhile, but with a darker side that's going to come out.

"Of course, we're also going to be dealing with **Peter's** efforts to get back into school and get back in the swing of things there."

SPEEDBALL

Plotted and penciled by **Steve Ditko**, scripted by **Roger Stern**, and inked by **Jackson Guice**. 75¢.

"**Speedball** is actually **Robbie Baldwin**," **Roger** told us. "He's a high school student who lives in Springdale. His father is **Justin Baldwin**, the district attorney. His mother is **Madeline Naylor**, a former actress who's now in academics. **Robbie's** just a normal high school kid; no **Einstein**, but he makes decent grades. An average guy. And due to an accident, he gains strange and wondrous powers which enable him to bounce all over the place like a Super-Ball!

"His biggest problem is adjusting to it, because this strange energy has gotten into his body, and it's released on impact, so if he hits something or something hits him, the energy is released and he rebounds away from the point of impact. The harder he hits things, the harder and faster he rebounds. So he has to be careful. He'd like to go out and play a little game of pick-up ball with the boys, but if he does, he's going to start bounding around the field!

"In the first issue, **Robbie** has to take on a couple of hitmen who've been hired to kill his father. We also get the origin story. The second issue involves a super-villain called the **Sticker** and a bunch of kids called the **Graffiti Guerillas** who are trying to put their art on the map, so to speak. Most issues of SPEEDBALL will have two 11-page stories, although there will be some book-length stories as well."

THE SQUADRON SUPREME Graphic Novel

Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. $6.95.

The SQUADRON SUPREME Graphic Novel will follow up on what happened after the events of the team's groundbreaking Limited Series. "It's a sequel of sorts, in that it takes place about a week after the last issue of the Limited Series," **Mark Gruenwald** said, "but it's a whole different beast entirely. The last one answered the musical question, 'What if super heroes used their powers to the fullest to change the world?' This one has a more cosmic theme. It's about the end of the universe. They're fighting to save their universe.

"Once again, lots of people will die and lots of exciting things happen," he continued, tongue firmly in cheek. "High heroics, and it should irritate people as much as the original series did."

(continued on page 26)

SPEEDBALL
THE INVESTIGATED INVINCIBLE

THE MYSTERY OF CROOKED FACE!

CREATED BY STEVE DITKO AND TOM DEFALCO (EDITOR-IN-CHIEF)

STEVE DITKO — PENCILLER
JACKSON GUICE — INKER
TOM VINCENT — COLOR
ROGER STERN — SCRIPTER
RICK PARKER — LETTERING
JIM SALICRUP — EDITOR

MEET ROBBIE BALDWIN.. HE WAS JUST A NORMAL SPRINGDALE CENTRAL HIGH ST. DENT BEFORE THE ACCIDENT! NOW HE CAN TURN HIMSELF INTO A BOUNCING, BOUNDING MASKED MARVEL!

ROB'S MOTHER, MADELINE NAYLOR IS A FORMER ACTRESS OF STAGE AND SCREEN WHO STILL WORKS IN LOCAL THEATER

"CROOKED FACE" IS THE NAME THE MEDIA HAVE GIVEN TO AN ELUSIVE FELON IS HE TOMMY MAGEE, OR ISN'T HE?

ROB'S FATHER JUSTIN BALDWIN IS AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY JUSTIN HAS A REPUTATION AS A TOUGH PROSECUTOR AND THEREIN HANGS OUR TALE

FOR MONTHS CROOKED FACE HAD PLAGUED AREA POLICE

NO ONE HAD A CLUE TO HIS IDENTITY UNTIL A WOULD-BE VICTIM PUT UP A STRUGGLE

HEY!

HAVEN'T I SEEN HIM BEFORE?

WHEN CHARGES WERE FILED AGAINST ONE THOMAS MAGEE

AND YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT THE MAN YOU SAW WAS THE DEFENDANT?

IT WAS HIM, ALL RIGHT!

HOWEVER SEVERAL WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENCE HAD PLACED THE ACCUSED IN A LOCAL BAR AT THE EXACT MOMENT OF THE CRIME

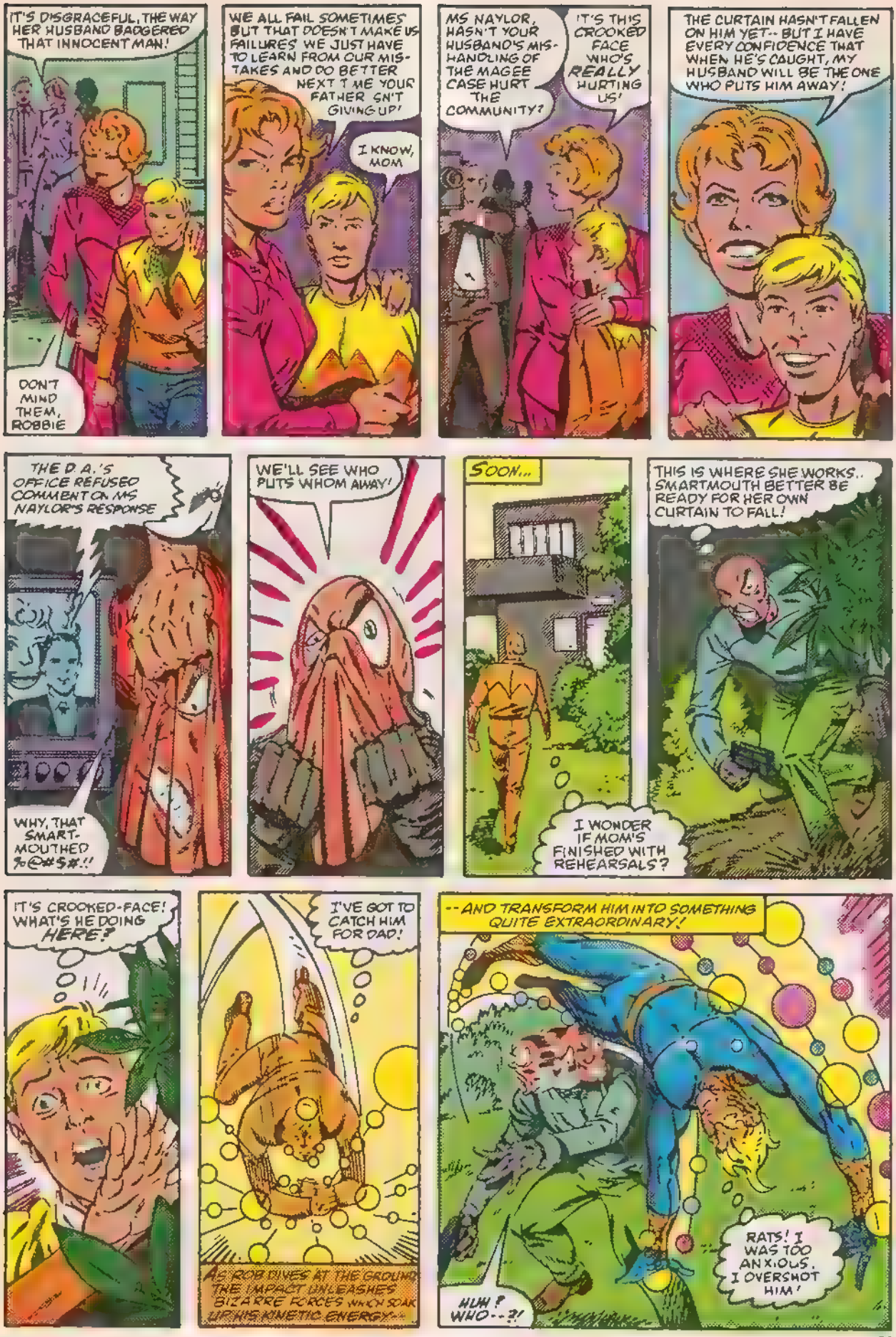
C'MON, GENTS, LAST CALL!

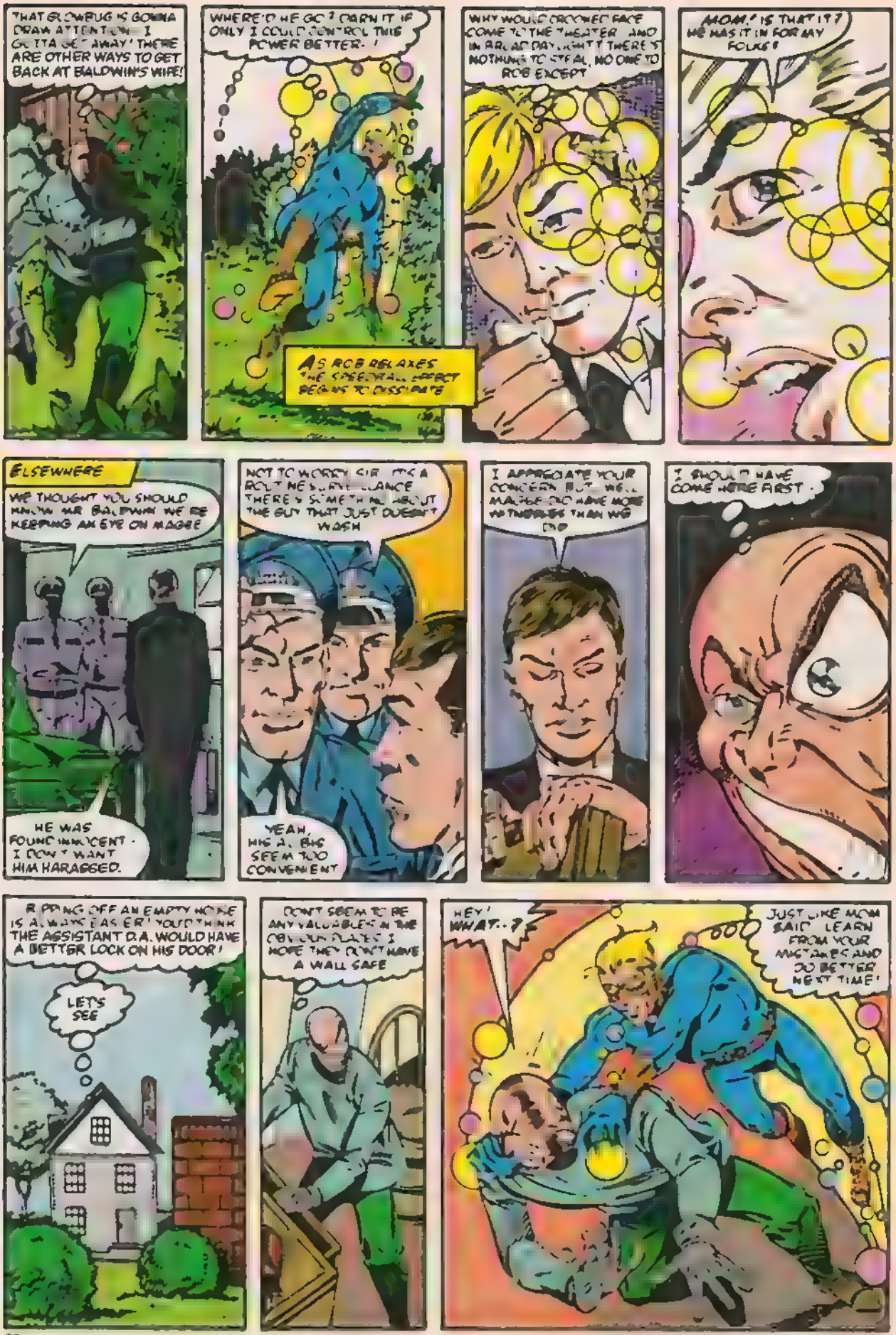
AND SO

WE FIND THE DEFENDANT NOT GUILTY!

LOOK AT HIM GLOAT! I WAS SURE HE WAS GUILTY.. BUT HOW COULD HE HAVE FOUND SO MANY MEN WILLING TO LIE FOR HIM?

I WAS JUST SO CERTAIN MAGEE WAS THE ONE!
THEY OUGHTTA FIRE THAT PROSECUTOR!
OLD MONEY
THEY WASTED ALL THAT MONEY TRYING THE WRONG GUY
BEST IF YOU TOOK SOME TIME OFF.
SINCE THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
I GOT A LIBRARY FINE, BUT I'M NOT
HAW HAW!
JERK! BOY, I'D LIKE TO-
I AM IN CONTROL
HE ALL BUT ACCUSED ME
GLAD I WAS HERE AND NOT DRINKING ALONE
JEWELRY! I SAW HIM!
AGAIN!
HAHAHAHAHA!


IT'S DISGRACEFUL, THE WAY HER HUSBAND BADGERED THAT INNOCENT MAN!
DON'T MIND THEM, ROBBIE
WE ALL FAIL SOMETIMES BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE US FAILURES. WE JUST HAVE TO LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES AND DO BETTER NEXT TIME. YOUR FATHER ISN'T GIVING UP!
I KNOW, MOM
MS. NAYLOR, HASN'T YOUR HUSBAND'S MISHANDLING OF THE MAGEE CASE HURT THE COMMUNITY?
IT'S THIS CROOKED FACE WHO'S REALLY HURTING US!
THE CURTAIN HASN'T FALLEN ON HIM YET-- BUT I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT WHEN HE'S CAUGHT, MY HUSBAND WILL BE THE ONE WHO PUTS HIM AWAY!
THE D.A.'S OFFICE REFUSED COMMENT ON MS. NAYLOR'S RESPONSE
WHY, THAT SMART-MOUTHED %@*$#!!
WE'LL SEE WHO PUTS WHOM AWAY!
SOON...
I WONDER IF MOM'S FINISHED WITH REHEARSALS?
THIS IS WHERE SHE WORKS.. SMARTMOUTH BETTER BE READY FOR HER OWN CURTAIN TO FALL!
IT'S CROOKED-FACE! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
I'VE GOT TO CATCH HIM FOR DAD!
AS ROB DIVES AT THE GROUND, THE IMPACT UNLEASHES BIZARRE FORCES WHICH SOAK UP HIS KINETIC ENERGY--
--AND TRANSFORM HIM INTO SOMETHING QUITE EXTRAORDINARY!
HUH? WHO--?!
RATS! I WAS TOO ANXIOUS. I OVERSHOT HIM!


THAT GLOWBUG IS GONNA DRAW ATTENTION... I GOTTA GET AWAY! THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO GET BACK AT BALDWIN'S WIFE!
WHERE'D HE GO? DARN IT IF ONLY I COULD CONTROL THIS POWER BETTER!
AS ROB RELAXES THE SPECIAL EFFECT BEGINS TO DISSIPATE
WHY WOULD CROOKED FACE COME TO THE THEATER AND IN BROAD DAYLIGHT? THERE'S NOTHING TO STEAL, NO ONE TO ROB EXCEPT
MOM! IS THAT IT? HE HAS IT IN FOR MY FOLKS!
ELSEWHERE
WE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MR BALDWIN WE'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON MAGEE
HE WAS FOUND INNOCENT. I DON'T WANT HIM HARASSED.
NOT TO WORRY SIR IT'S A ROUTINE SURVEILLANCE THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE GUY THAT JUST DOESN'T WASH
YEAH HE'S A BIG SEEM TOO CONVENIENT
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN BUT WE... MAYBE DO HAVE MORE WITNESSES THAN WE DID
I SHOULD HAVE COME HERE FIRST.
BOPPING OFF AN EMPTY HOUSE IS ALWAYS EASIER! YOU'D THINK THE ASSISTANT D.A. WOULD HAVE A BETTER LOCK ON HIS DOOR!
LET'S SEE
DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY VALUABLES IN THE OBVIOUS PLACES I HOPE THEY DON'T HAVE A WALL SAFE
HEY! WHAT..?
JUST LIKE MOM SAID LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES AND DO BETTER NEXT TIME!

I'M STILL GETTING THE HANG OF THIS, BUT I TH NK I KNOCKED HUM OUT!
WHUD
GOOD LORD!
WHOOPS! IT'S DAD BETTER SPLIT!
SHORTLY
NOW WHAT?
THERE'S A MAN WHO'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TOMMY
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, BALDWIN! I'LL SUE··!
WHAT-EVER FOR, MAGEE?
I ONLY WANT YOU TO MEET SOMEBODY!
CROOKED FACE: THEN HE ISN'T MAGEE?
MR MAGEE SEEMS FRIGHTENED BY THAT MASK, ROB LETS GET RID OF IT!
OKAY, DAD!
WHAT GIVES? HE LOOKS ENOUGH LIKE MAGEE TO BE ·!
I I'M HIS BROTHER EDDIE
I AIN'T TAKING THE FALL ALONE. I PULLED THE JOBS, BUT TOMMY DREAMED 'EM UP
SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE RUNNING EVERYTHING!
HALFWIT! I NEVER TOLD YOU TO HIT BALDWIN'S PLACE!
NOW, BOYS! YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT
I KNOW MY RIGHTS! I'LL TELL YA WHAT YA WANNA KNOW.. JUST KEEP THIS BUM OFF MY CASE!
THANK GOODNESS THAT'S OVER! YOU'D BETTER SHOWER, JUSTIN AND PUT ON YOUR OTHER SUIT!
EH? WHY, MADDY?
I WANT MY HERO TO LOOK HIS BEST. THE MEDIA IS SURE TO WANT A CURTAIN CALL NOW!
YEAH!
WHY DOES SHE ALWAYS GET THE BEST LINES!
END

CAN YOU NAME EVERYONE ON THE MARVEL UNIVERSE POSTER?

It's 50 - 50! It sports dang near every hero and villain we've got! It's by Ed Hannigan and Joe Rubinstein! It's the Marvel Universe poster! It's only $14.95! *And* it's also your chance to get a free gift from the batty Bullpen!

That's right! Just send an alphabetical list of everyone on the Marvel Universe poster to NAMES c/o MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. And the lucky computer we pick whose alphabetical list has all the right names will receive a very special gift — a whole year's worth of Marvel Press posters! Be sure to keep your pencil sharp and have extra paper handy because there are over two hundred characters on the poster (we'd don't say it was going to be easy)! The deadline is September 15th, 1988.

Good luck.

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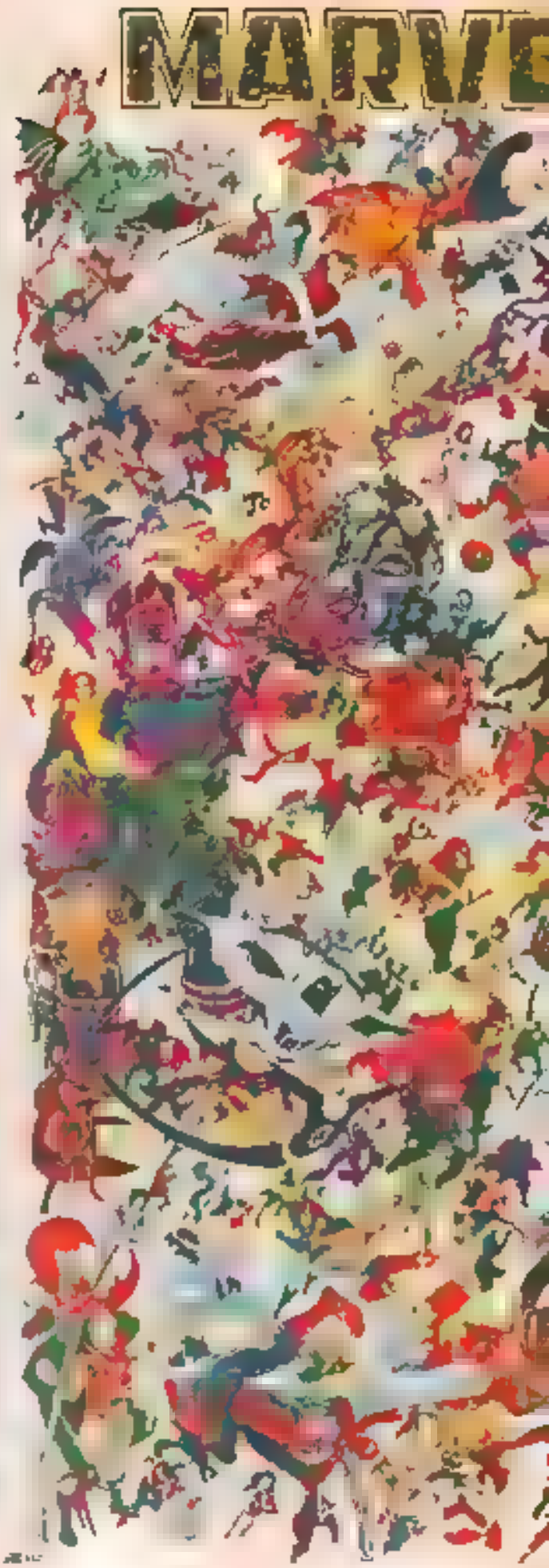

UNIVERSE

CAN YOU NAME EVERYONE ON THE MARVEL UNIVERSE POSTER?

It's 50" × 50"! It sports dang near every hero and villain we've got! It's by Ed Hannigan and Joe Rubinstein! It's the Marvel Universe poster! It's only $14.95! *And* it's also your chance to get a free gift from the batty Bullpen!

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Good luck!

1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. One complete set of official rules and copy of the poster appear on this page. You may also obtain a copy of the official rules and this page by printing your name, address, age (if under age 18, indicate parent or legal guardian's name) on a 3" × 5" card and send it to NAMES c/o MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. (Mutilated or illegible cards will be disqualified.) One request per envelope. All requests must be received no later than August 31, 1988. Requests will be honored only while supplies last.

2. Winners will be chosen at random only from those entries on which all characters on the Marvel Universe poster have been listed in correct alphabetical order. Your chance of winning will depend on the total number of correct entry forms received.

3. To enter contest, send an alphabetical list of names of all the characters on the Marvel Universe Poster. You may enter as often as you like, but each entry must be mailed separately. Entry forms must be postmarked no later than September 15, 1988 and must be received by October 1, 1988.

4. The winner will be announced in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE and will be notified by mail. The winner's name can be obtained by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE — Contest Winner, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

5. Marvel will not be responsible for any tax that may be due on the prize or for lost or stolen entry forms.

6. Void where prohibited.

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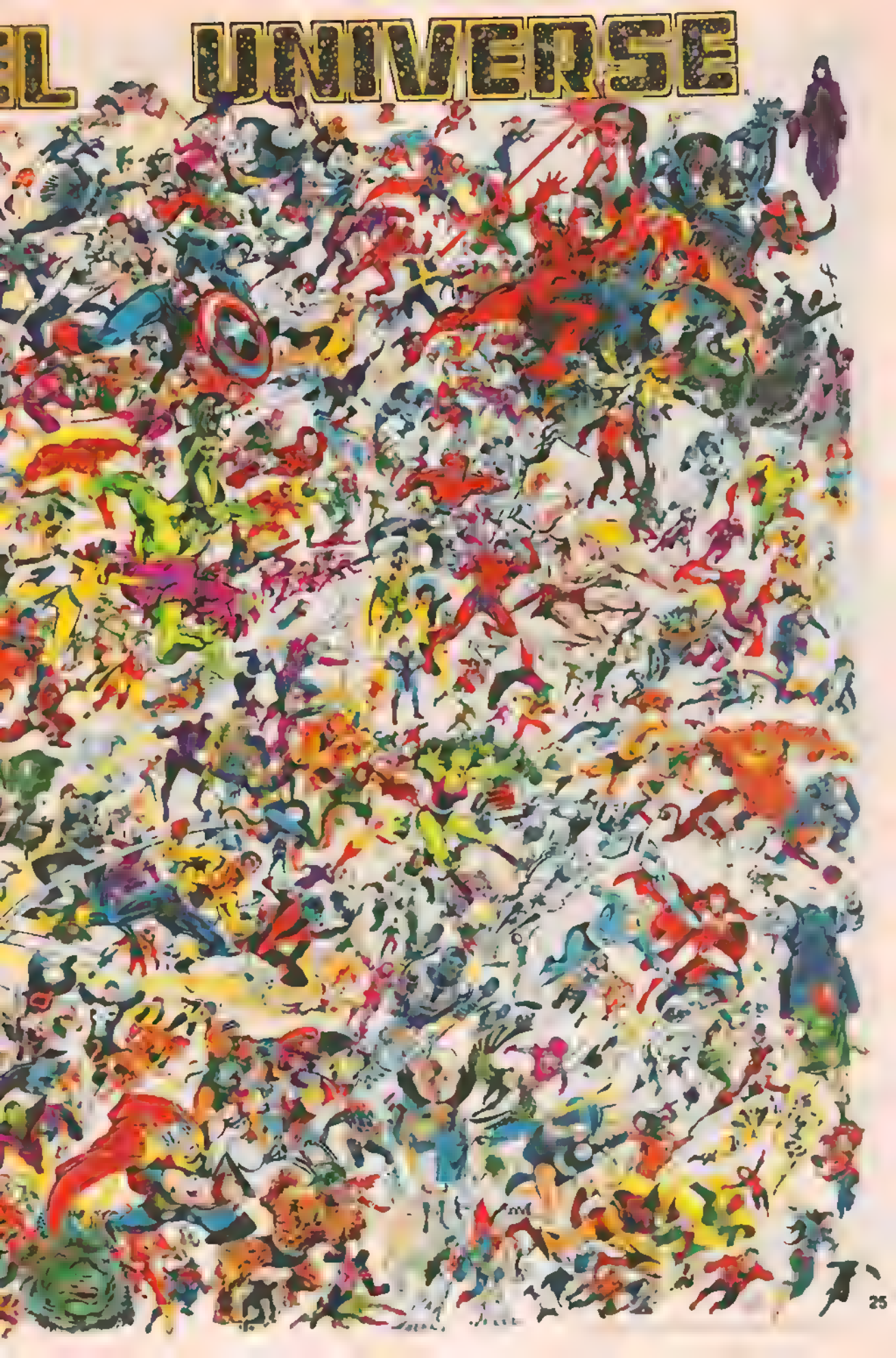

EL UNIVERSE

(continued from page 18)

Wrapping up, **Mark** called the Graphic Novel "quite different, pretty strange. If you think you've read 'end of the world' stories before, this one is different."

STEELTOWN ROCKERS

Written by **Elaine Lee** and illustrated by **Steve Leialoha**.

"STEELTOWN ROCKERS is about kids from Steeltown, a small town in the midwest," editor **Bobbie Chase** said. "When the steel mill closes, almost everybody's father is out of work. Steeltown is an upper-middle class to lower class community. So all these kids from very different socio-economic backgrounds form a rock band to play in this town. Trying to make some money, and maybe dream a little. It's very realistic. You get the feeling that they'd *all* rather be someplace else.

"At this point, **Elaine Lee** wants to do the series in real time. So it's going to be a monthly thing about how they form the band and so on. It really deals with the personalities of the people and their emotional problems. It's almost like a soap opera. It's pretty much like what **Larry Hama** does with G.I. JOE, there's always a continuing storyline in this case about how these kids are evolving. Band members come, band members go, and they'll play all kinds of music.

"It's got a really nice feel to it."

STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI

Written by **James D. Hudnall** and penciled by **Mark Bagley** and others, and inked by **Val Mayerik**. 32 pages. Mando offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

Ever since their inception, the **Morituri** have waged a running war against the invading alien **Horde**. Now that the war with the **Horde** is over, what's in store for the **Morituri**?

"MORITURI takes off in a new direction when a new race of aliens shows up on the scene, a race that is vastly more powerful than the Horde," new scripter **James D. Hudnall** said. "But the question is, Does this race want to help the Earth or are they enemies?' We won't know for a couple of issues. They're a mystery.

"Meanwhile, there's an organization, a cabal of individuals who are part of the government of Earth, who are interested in keeping the war going because it makes them a lot of money. So they set up a covert **Morituri** of their own, which they use for covert operations and dirty tricks. And they use the regular **Morituri** to do menial tasks and send them out on minor missions, which is causing a lot of frustration in the team.

"A new cure which cures the deadly Morituri Effect comes up, but it has a side-effect which may be worse than the Morituri Effect itself!

"We begin to learn more about the surviving members of the **Morituri** and the real reason they were formed, other than public relations, and what the government plans to do with them, now that the war's over. The preconceived notion that everyone has about why the Morituri exist is perhaps only a public relations ploy."

THE SUB-MARINER Limited Series

Written by **Roy Thomas** and penciled by **Rich Buckler**. 32 pages. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

What with Marvel's fiftieth anniversary coming up, it seems only appropriate that this Limited Series will present a retrospective of the life of what writer **Roy Thomas** calls "the character who in many ways could be considered the very first Marvel Comics character of all time! Not only was he in the very first comic book Marvel published almost fifty years ago, MARVEL COMICS #1, but he even preceded that slightly, his first story was published elsewhere a few months before that.

"The **Sub-Mariner** was really one of the best drawn, best written, and best conceived super heroes in the whole first decade or two of the comics and in many ways, I think, of all time. What we wanted to do was go over the illustrious career of this character, using the material from his creator, **Bill Everett**, and some of the other things done by other people over the years, especially the **Stan Lee-Jack Kirby** period, since I always felt that **Jack Kirby** was one of the two or three best artists (after **Bill** himself) for the character."

The series will begin with the start of **Namor's** career and proceed up through his recent adventures in the pages of THE AVENGERS. "The idea was to cover his entire career and see whether perhaps that led us to a new regular series for the character himself. But in many ways, it's a celebration of the **Sub-Mariner** and it's a celebration of Marvel's fifty years by dealing with one of the two single charcters that got it started and put on the map."

The Limited Series is more than just a retrospective of **Namor's** career, though, since as **Roy** pointed out, "there have been so many different versions of events over the years that they need to be brought in line. For example, in the whole first issue, the birth issue, **Namor** only appears in the last two panels! The story of his parents has been told by many people, from **Bill** in the first appearance through other variations by people such as myself, **Stan** and **Jack** in the early '60s . . . We sort of tried to put all of these together and at the same time to add a new perspective. Some of the events in the series may have been retold dozens of times and others only once in some back issue in the '40s or '50s and never even reprinted. Others need to be brought in line because there are discrepancies here and there." Indeed, the Limited Series will even uncover some never-before-revealed events from the past of everyone's favorite winglooted undersea monarch!

Roy also had nothing but good things to say about his collaborator, penciler **Rich Buckler**. "**Rich Buckler** has been doing some of the best work of (I think) his entire career! I was pleased to have him come on board as the artist and I was ten times more pleased when I saw the original pencils, because I think they're the best work he's ever done, as well as some of the best stuff any comic book company has published in a while now!"

TALES OF G.I. JOE

Written by **Larry Hama** and penciled by **Herb Trimpe** and others. 32 pages. Mando paper. $1.50

TALES OF G.I. JOE will continue to chronologically re-present stories from the G.I. JOE series. We'll meet now-familiar characters, both good and evil, as they were when they first appeared! And we'll thrill once again to the **Joes'** struggle to thwart the fiendish schemes of **Cobra**!

But then, how could a group of Real American Heroes lose?

THOR

Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 75¢

"Once he connects with **Hogun the Grim**, **Thor** is going to travel to the dimension of the Egyptian gods to try to get back to **Asgard**," assistant editor **Marc Sirry** revealed. "**Hogun** is getting **Seth's** mark of death on his face, which means that by the end of the god war, he's going to be killed.

"**Greg the God-Crusher** is going to be the one who gets them back to the Egyptian dimension where they figure they can leapfrog back to Asgard because the Egyptians were able to get to Asgard.

"Meanwhile, back in Asgard, **Balder the Brave** thinks **Hogun the Grim** is dead and figures Asgard needs **Thor's** power more than anyone else, so he starts to recall **Thor's** power into himself. Meanwhile **Thor**, the **Black Knight**, and **Hogun the Grim** journey into the serpent god dimension and they plunge into the middle of this massive army and they start fighting and tearing up Egyptians and everything, and then **Balder** recalls **Thor's** power and **Thor** is left to battle **Seth**, the serpent god of death, without his power! That will culminate in a war between the Egyptian gods and the Asgardians."

THE TRANSFORMERS

Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. $1.00.

"Beginning with issue #42, **Optimus Prime**, the longtime and long-missing **Autobot** leader, comes back to lead the **Autobots** after a long period when everyone thought he was dead, dysfunctional, however you want to put it . . . shut down," **Bob** told us. "He comes back to take charge of the **Transformers**, but now he's back, more powerful than ever! Now, he's a **Power Master**, and a human named **Hi-Q** is sort of his engine and sort of powers him. One of the main directions for THE TRANSFORMERS will involve the **Power Masters**, a set of **Autobots** and **Decepticons** who will be bonded in this way to humans who will serve as their power sources, as their engines.

"Another main feature that will be prominent in upcoming issues of THE TRANSFORMERS will be the **Pretenders**. The **Pretenders** are **Transformers** who have this ability to put on this organic-looking outer shell and disguise themselves as something other than robots. In the case of the **Autobots**, they look like humans, and in the case of the **Decepticons**, they look like monstrous creatures. Issue #44, in fact, involves **Skullgrin**, one of the **Pretenders**, and how a cheapy monster movie producer convinces him to star in his upcoming movie!

"Issue #50 will be a double-sized issue where a threat to not only the **Autobots** and **Decepticons** but also the entire Earth will come from deep within the cosmos unless the **Autobots** and **Decepticons** can band together to stop it!"

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN

Written by **Gerry Conway** and others and drawn by **Alex Saviuk** and others. $1.00

Over the Summer months, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN will feature an assortment of stories by some of your favorite Marvel writers and artists.

"Issue #43 concludes the four-part 'Cult of Love' storyline by **Peter David**, **Alex Saviuk** and **Keith Williams**," said **Spidey** editor, **Jim Salicrup**. "Issue #44 is a crossover with THE INCREDIBLE HULK #349. **Peter** is in Las Vegas on a tour promoting his **Spidey** photo book. **Spidey** gets involved in a battle with the villain, **Warzone**, in the casino where the **Hulk** works as a bouncer. #45 is about what happens to **Peter** on the flight back to New York City. The

plane crashes and everyone is stranded in the desert. But what makes matters worse is that hovering over them is the **Vulture**. Its written by **Adam Blaustein**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. Issue #46 is written and penciled by **Richard Howell**. **Peter** goes to New England on another promotional stop for his book. He visits this community where a lot of peculiar things are happening. It guest stars **Henry Pym**. **Nekra** is the villain. Issue #47 is called "Corner Business." It's written by **Peter David** and illustrated by **Val Mayerik**. The storyline features the model friend of **Mary Jane's** introduced in the "Cult of Love" storyline. This story reveals that she's a cocaine addict. **Mary Jane** tries to save the girl while **Spidey** goes after the pusher. #48 is when **Gerry Conway** takes over the writing. **Alex Saviuk** and **Keith Williams** are the artists for that issue."

As we move into Fall, the new regular creative team of scripter **Gerry Conway** and artists **Alex Saviuk** and **Keith Williams** will take over the reins of the series, and the storylines will begin to interrelate more strongly with those in THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. (For more specifics on those storylines, see the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN entry in this article.)

WEST COAST AVENGERS

John Byrne, writer and penciler and **Mike Machlan**, inker. 75¢

"**John Byrne** will be taking over WEST COAST AVENGERS with issue #42," editor **Howard Mackie** said.

"The team stays pretty much the same," **John** said, "but I'll be adding some new characters. There will be a couple new, never before seen ones. I'm also planning on bringing **She-Hulk** in. The **Wasp** will remain for awhile. I have plans on doing a little something with **Hercules**. And I'm going to be messing around with the **Vision** like crazy. The major thrust of my first half-dozen or so issues will be about the **Vision**. And in fact one of the new members will be coming out of this **Vision** storyline.

"I talked to **Walt Simonson** [writer of THE AVENGERS] and as far as he and I are concerned, we're both doing the **Avengers**. Mine simply have their base of operations on the West Coast. This means that I have access to all the Avengers characters and villains the same way that he does. The necessary coordination will be to simply make sure that I don't do an **Ultron** story the same month he does an **Ultron** story... that kind of thing."

Howard added, "Basically we want to start getting away from the strictly West Coast aspect of the team and make them what they really are, which is **Avengers**. We want to have more big storylines. Their adventures are going to be more international and more intergalactic."

WILLOW Limited Series

Written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Bob Hall**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. $1.00

"WILLOW is an adaptation of the upcoming film from Lucasfilms, written by **George Lucas** and directed by **Ron Howard**," editor **Bob Budiansky** explained. "It takes place in a kind of medieval fantasy world... even earlier than medieval — of conquering armies, magical wizards, little people called **Brownies** who have magical powers of their own... a complete fantasy landscape.

"The story's about this simple, peaceful farmer named **Willow Ufgood** whose family discovers an abandoned baby floating down the river. The reason the baby is floating down the river is that the mother had to send the baby away to save the baby's life, because the prophecy surrounding the baby is if she ever lives and grows up, she'll overthrow the evil **Queen Bavmorda**, an evil wizardess who rules the land.

"**Willow** is then sent out on a quest to deliver the baby to safety. In the course of this quest, he comes across various people who help him, who oppose him, trolls, monsters, and all sorts of fanciful characters. And eventually, he comes up against the evil queen herself and all her magical hordes."

WOLFPACK Limited Series

Written by **John Figueroa**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢

The youthful ninjas known as Wolfpack will be facing not only life-threatening menaces but also internal crises over the coming year. Editor **Terry Kavanagh** gave us a glimpse of what to expect in this twelve-issue Limited Series.

"We're going to meet a family member of one of the team members — **Raphael's** father. And the revelation of who **Raphael's** father is will wind up getting the team some funding to fund their good deeds around the South Bronx.

"They'll be taking on ninjas and samurai towards the end of the year. The ninjas and samurai will be the agents of the **Nine**, who've been the bad guys all along, but up 'til now, **Wolfpack** has just been dealing with their street crime, the drugs, and the lower echelon. They're working their way towards the top."

But it won't be easy getting there, as **Terry** told us that "one of the team members will die and a new one will be inducted!"

If you've been following WOLFPACK regularly, you'll also be happy to know that **Terry** informed us that more WOLFPACK adventures are on the way! "There will be solo stories appearing in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS and there will be some team stories in there," **Terry** said.

WOLVERINE

Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 32 pages. Baxter paper. $1.50

Chris Claremont described this much-demanded monthly series as "**Wolverine** unleashed!"

The series will feature "**Wolverine** by himself with the restraints off. It's being treated as high adventure rather than super heroics, sort of a combination of CONAN meets TERRY AND THE PIRATES. Exotic locales, mysterious women, ultra-villainous villains, adventure, style, wit, fashion, murder, and mayhem, not necessarily in that order.

"That's probably the first five pages of issue #1.

"Basically, the first issue sets up the status quo, if you will, this is what he is, this is what he does. The first three issues involve a quest for an ancient, cursed sword, which will eventually involve the **Silver Samurai**, who is apparently not working with the **Viper** anymore. They'll also set up some basics with the supporting cast, among whom will be **Jessica Drew** and **Lindsay McCabe** from SPIDER-WOMAN.

"After that, we introduce an old villain who used to be in NEW MUTANTS and SPIDER-WOMAN, a crimelord who's also **Karma's** uncle, **General Coy**. And we introduce **Karma** as well.

"I've been talking to **Walt** and **Weezie** [**Simonson**] about a possible fight between **Wolverine** and **Angel** where they pretty much kill each other."

X-FACTOR

Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walt Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. $1.00

"In #33, it's the deadline for the Mutant Registration Act," scripter **Louise Simonson** told us, "and the **Orphanmaker** is kidnaping mutant children and killing parents. He's our 'What if **Peter Pan** were a psychopathic killer?' riff. It's the **Orphanmaker** and **Nanny** and the **Lost Boys** (and **Girl**).

"**Rusty**, as a protest to the Mutant Registration Act, turns himself in to the Navy but refuses to sign the mutant registration. And that's to set up the X-TERMINATORS Limited Series.

"Also in these issues, we find out the effects of **Infectia**'s kiss upon the **Beast**. He'll be the **Beast** the way you always wanted to see him . . . or will he?

"**Angel** finds out what happened to **Candy Southern** and he's not happy, so **Cameron Hodge** and he have a kind of fatal discussion about it. We also learn of the **Right**'s involvement with **the Occult**.

"In the meantime, **Jean** and **Scott** locate **Scott**'s baby and go after it and confront the **Orphanmaker**. And during the fight with the **Orphanmaker**, demons from Limbo will come in and steal the baby! That leads directly into — ta da! — Inferno!

"Inferno is demons overrunning the city and **Scott** and **Jean** on the trail of the baby and all other weird stuff happening and Hell on Earth and, oh, it'll be awful. I think by the end of that, the **Angel** will rejoin the team as **Archangel** and we will learn the secret of his evil wings."

THE X-MEN

Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Mark Silvestri** and **Rick Leonardi** and inked by **Dan Green**. $1.00

"The fundamental storyline for the year, through the fall and winter, is Inferno, which is this year's big crossover," **Chris** said. "It will possibly be the last of the big-time X-book crossovers, and we'll go out with a bang. It will be the first and hopefully only meeting between the **X-Men** and **X-Factor**!"

Chris revealed that the Inferno storyline will contain a number of truly significant events, including "the final confrontation between **Cyclops** and **Madelyne**, the resolution of what happened to the baby, what happened to **Madelyne**, who's married to whom, the imminent end of life on Earth as we know it, and stuff like that. It will probably be an obscenely massive crossover between X-MEN, X-FACTOR, NEW MUTANTS, EXCALIBUR, POWER PACK, THE AVENGERS, and probably DAREDEVIL."

Before the **X-Men** reach the Inferno storyline, though, THE X-MEN will be published bi-weekly throughout the summer. These issues will contain "a self-contained story which is in the continuity and which involves a new look at mutants. It'll hopefully be well-paced adventure with some elements that are relevant to the world at large and a few surprises that people may not expect from the X-Men."

X-TERMINATORS Limited Series

Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**, and inked by **Al Williamson** and **Al Milgrom**. $1.00

"X-TERMINATORS will be seriously into the Inferno stuff," said **Louise Simonson**, referring to this fall's mammoth crossover involving THE X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, X-FACTOR, EXCALIBUR, and POWER PACK. The four-issue Limited Series will star the kids from X-FACTOR, out on their own against a fearsome new menace.

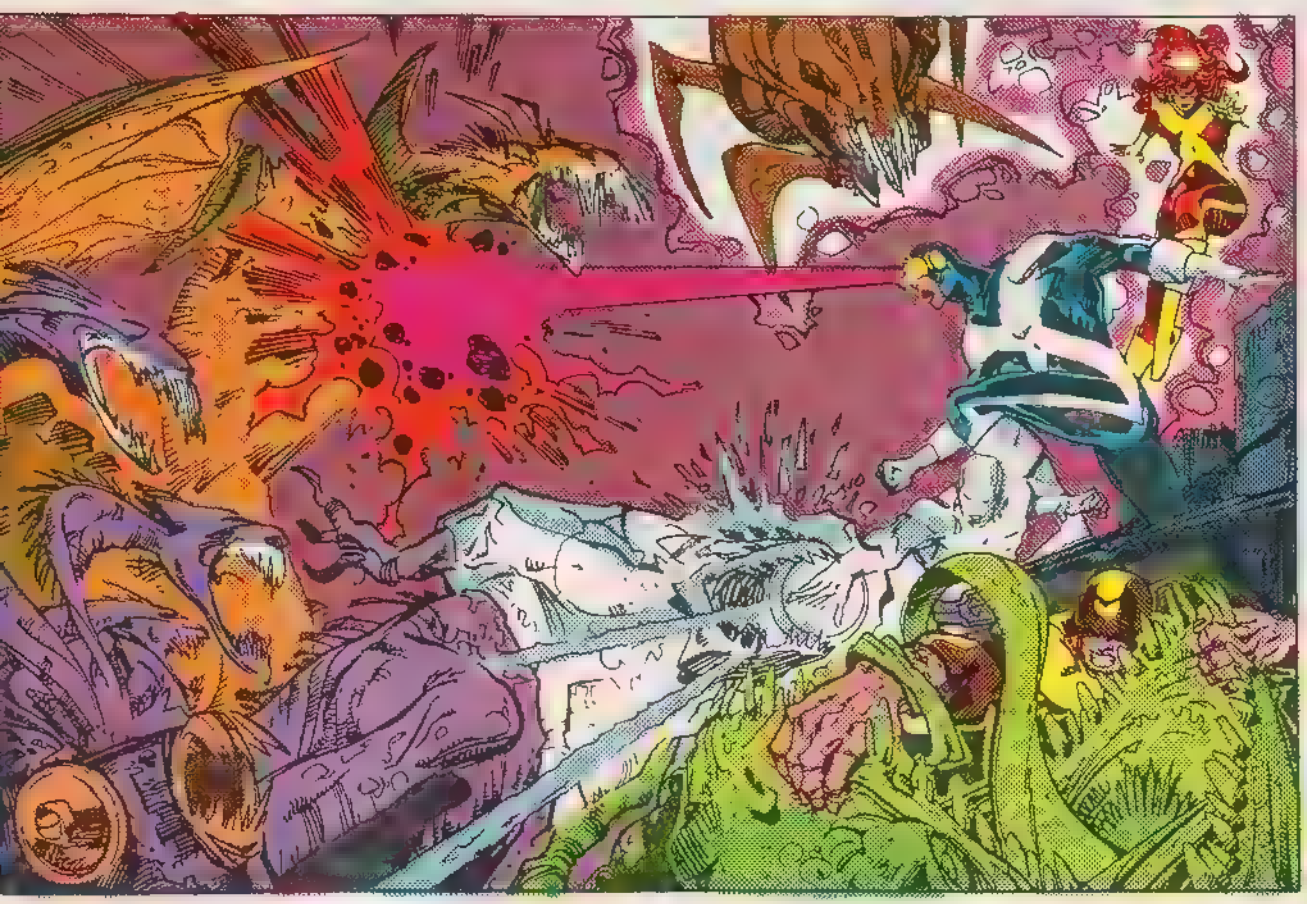
"We have a villain called **N'Astirh**," **Louise** said. "He will come to Earth in search of thirteen babies of power and purity to use them as sacrifices in the ceremony that will bring Limbo to Earth. He grabs several of the X-FACTOR kids and the others pick up after them.

"**N'Astirh** will become the first technological demon, having discovered the efficacy of computerizing his spells — how quickly he can call them up, how quickly he can disperse them — and will become a major combatant in the demons' war for possession of Manhattan. And the X-FACTOR/X-TERMINATOR kids are caught up in it.

"We'll be introducing another of these kids called **Whiz Kid**, who's a little Japanese transformer kid in a wheelchair. He has this wheelchair and he can make it be anything he wants it to.

"We may also guest-star some of the X-Factor guys and some of the **New Mutants**."

— Shelly Fisch



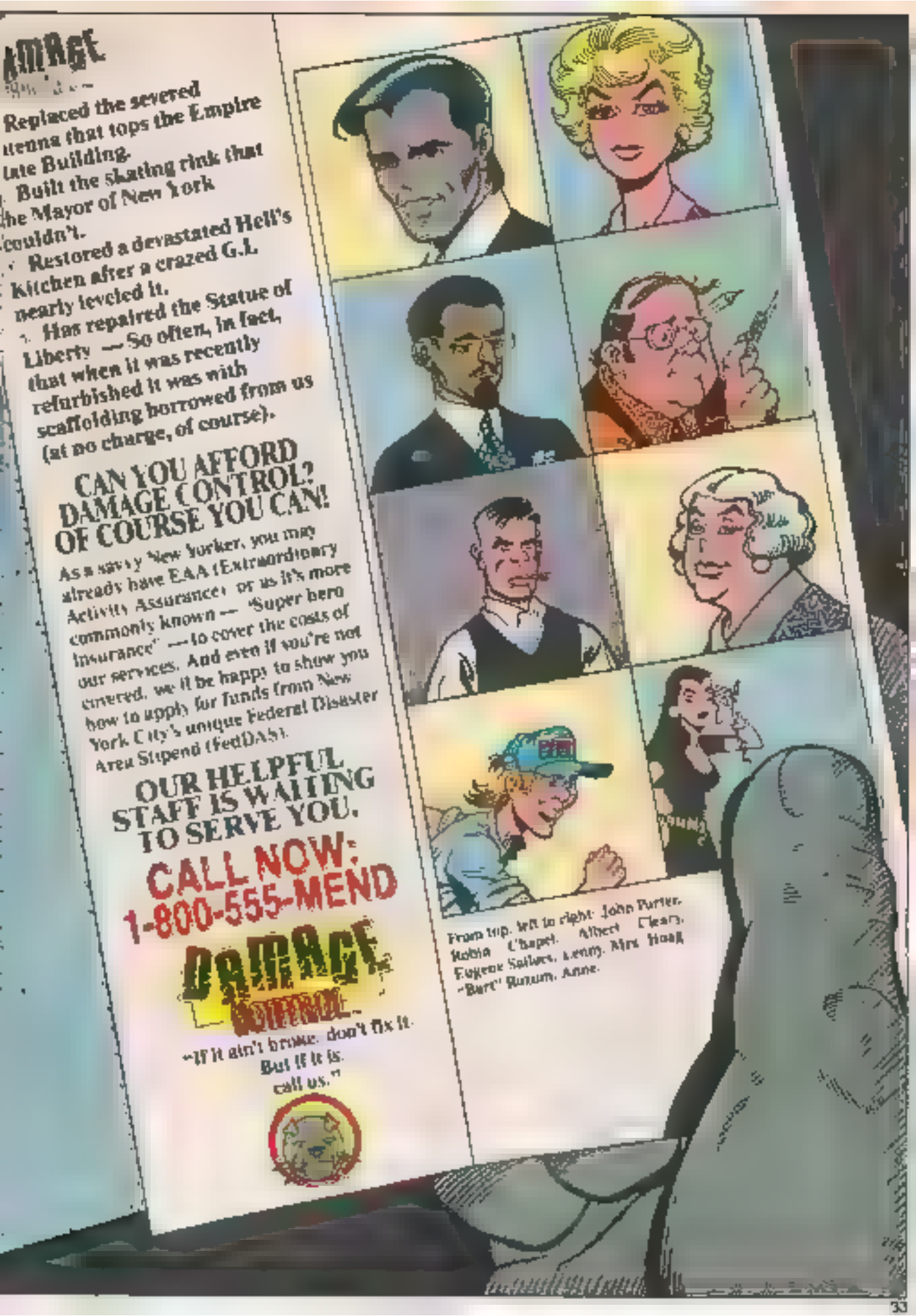
AFTER THE EARTH-SHATTERING CONCLUSION... ONCE JUSTICE IS SERVED.. WHEN, AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, THE WORLD IS AGAIN SAVED FROM THE VERY BRINK OF DESTRUCTION... IT'S TIME TO PICK UP THE PIECES...

DAMAGE CONTROL

...SOMEBODY'S GOT TO DO IT!

NAH I'M WAYNE NEWTON. BEAT IT, PUNK!
THAT'S VERY FUNNY MR HULK I'VE GONE THROUGH SOME TROUBLE TO FIND YOU ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I'M HENRY ACKERMAN, VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF MARKETING FOR DAMAGE CONTROL, INC. AND I'VE GOT A BUSINESS PROPOSITION FOR YOU!
MAKE IT GOOD. IF I DON'T LIKE WHAT I HEAR I'M GONNA SEE HOW FAR I CAN THROW YOU.
TERRIFIC
WE'D LIKE TO HIRE YOU AS OUR SPOKESMAN. IN RETURN WE WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT UH...
...MAYBE THIS PAMPHLET WILL EXPLAIN...
LET ME READ IT TO Y--
GIMME THAT!
I CAN READ
WHUMP

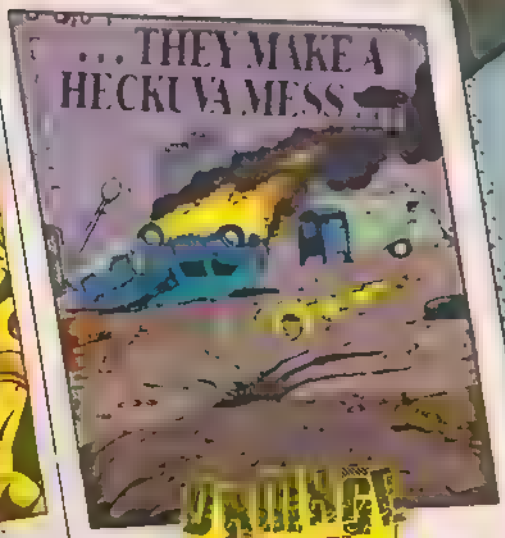
WHEN TITANS CLASH
LAST YEAR ALONE SUPER POWERED ACTIVITY LED TO OVER $20 BILLION IN PROPERTY DAMAGE
And that's why YOU need
DAMAGE CONTROL
... THEY MAKE A HECKUVA MESS
DAMAGE CONTROL
is the Manhattan-based engineering and construction firm that specializes in the clean-up, repair and restoration of property damaged by super powered activity. You may already be acquainted with our work.
When New York landmark Baxter Building inexplicably crashed [illegible]
Damage Control [illegible]
Thanks [illegible]
already know whether to be [illegible] Quasar [illegible] them? Charlie Hummel [illegible]


AMAGE
Replaced the severed
tenna that tops the Empire
ate Building.
Built the skating rink that
he Mayor of New York
couldn't.
Restored a devastated Hell's
Kitchen after a crazed G.I.
nearly leveled it.
Has repaired the Statue of
Liberty — So often, in fact,
that when it was recently
refurbished it was with
scaffolding borrowed from us
(at no charge, of course).
CAN YOU AFFORD DAMAGE CONTROL? OF COURSE YOU CAN!
As a savvy New Yorker, you may already have EAA (Extraordinary Activity Assurance) — or as it's more commonly known — "Super hero insurance" — to cover the costs of our services. And even if you're not covered, we'll be happy to show you how to apply for funds from New York City's unique Federal Disaster Area Stipend (FedDAS).
OUR HELPFUL STAFF IS WAITING TO SERVE YOU.
CALL NOW: 1-800-555-MEND
DAMAGE CONTROL
"If it ain't broke, don't fix it. But if it is, call us."
From top, left to right: John Porter, Robin Chapel, Albert Clears, Eugene Sellers, Lenny, Mrs. Hoak, "Bare" Bunsun, Anne.

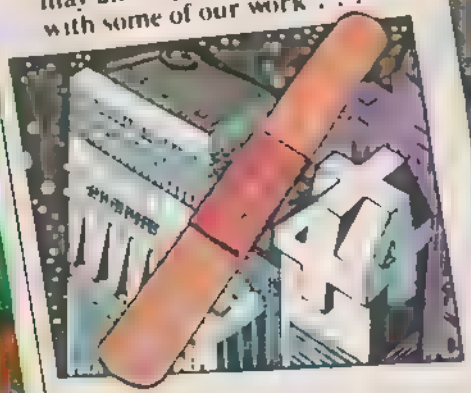
WHEN TITANS CLASH . . .

LAST YEAR ALONE, SUPER-POWERED ACTIVITY LED TO OVER $20 BILLION IN PROPERTY DAMAGE. And that's why YOU need . . . DAMAGE CONTROL

. . . THEY MAKE A HECKUVA MESS . . .



. . . is the Manhattan-based engineering and construction firm that specializes in the clean-up, repair and restoration of property damaged by super-powered activity. You may already be acquainted with some of our work . . .



". . . Damage Control has provided absolutely fabulous service to the Avengers almost since the beginning. People in the know are already abuzz, whether in the Jet Set or in a Quinjet . . . You say you haven't heard of them? *Quelle dommage!*" — Janet The Wasp Van Dyne, former Avengers Chairperson

When New York landmark Baxter Building inexplicably rocketed into space, it was DAMAGE CONTROL along with the S.H.I.E.L.D. Corps of Engineers, who repaired the damage to the surrounding neighborhood and built the astonishing four Freedom's Plaza on the site. "The technical acumen of your staff is impressive indeed! You followed my somewhat difficult specifications to the letter." — Dr. Reed [illegible] Fantastic Four, former leader of the Fantastic Four

AMAGE CONTROL™

Replaced the severed antenna that tops the Empire State Building.

☆ Built the skating rink that the Mayor of New York couldn't.

☆ Restored a devastated Hell's Kitchen after a crazed G.I. nearly leveled it.

☆ Has repaired the Statue of Liberty. — So often, in fact, that when it was recently refurbished it was with scaffolding borrowed from us (at no charge, of course).

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DAMAGE CONTROL™

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it. But if it is, call us."

From top, left to right. John Porter, Robin Chapel, Albert Cleary, Eugene Sailors, Lenny, Mrs. Hoag, "Bart" Rozum, Anne.

WE'LL REPAIR ANY DAMAGE CAUSED AS A RESULT OF YOUR ACTIVITIES.
AND OUR AD CAMPAIGN WILL BE "DAMAGE CONTROL. WE CLEAN UP THE HULK'S MESSES. WE CAN CERTAINLY HANDLE YOURS!"
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
R-RAACH!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE SLOGAN, WE CAN CHANGE IT..
KHOOM!
I CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND IF YOU WANT SOME CREATIVE INPUT.
SKLUTCH
GET THIS CLOWN OUTTA HERE!
SO
I'LL TELL MY BOSS YOU'RE THINKING IT OVER...
BVU

WATCH FOR THE FIRST ISSUE OF *DAMAGE CONTROL*--COMING SOON!

new universe

A to Z

SPOILER WARNING What we said in the Marvel A to Z goes double here!

D.P.7

Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. Mando offset. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

"D.P. 7 really haven't been seven guys for a while, and certainly not the original seven," **Mark Gruenwald** chuckled. "They've broken up into little splinter groups. **Jeff Walters** (**the Blur**) will still be in the Army as part of the special elite paranormal commando force. He'll be with that for the foreseeable future, all by himself. **Randy** (**Antibody**) and **Dave** (**Mastodon**) will still be in the Army but thinking about getting out by that time. They won't make it as part of the force. Either they screwed up in basic training or they don't have what it takes or they're not Army material. #24 features **Dave's** attempt to get out of the Army. In #25, **Antibody** meets the **Shadowman**, the renegade **Antibody** who killed a kid named **Evan**. Neither one will walk away the same . . . in fact, one won't walk away!

"**Lenore** (**Twilight**), **Charlene** (**Friction**), and **Stephanie** (**Glitter**) are working for the C.I.A. as special operatives. They are not drafted; women still aren't drafted. They join forces with **Jenny Swenson**, the former **Spitfire**, who is **Spitfire** no longer. The government confiscated the armor awhile back and it's been used by other people. **Jenny's** undergoing a strange transformation as a result of being exposed to the fluid at the bottom of the Pit. So the four of them, plus **Sponge** (who took Stephanie's place in the group for awhile) form a five-woman commando team whose first and perhaps only mission will be in #26."

"**Scuzz** is still the leader of his own group of paranormal teenagers called the **D.D.Teens**. Something bad happens to them in issue #26."

Mark didn't want to say exactly what happens to **Scuzz**, nor could he say too much more about future events in general, but he did let it slip that "the general direction is New York. The various storylines will start converging again after this wild separation ends, and it will be around New York, which (other than Pittsburgh, which doesn't exist) will be one of the most uninhabitable cities in the world, thanks to being downwind of Pittsburgh!"

JUSTICE

Written by **Peter David** and drawn by **Lee Weeks**. Mando offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

"**Justice** will be interacting more with the New Universe as the draft and the upcoming World War III occur," **Peter** said. "He'll form an uneasy alliance with the National Security Council. But the thing is, the National Security Council figures that what they've got themselves is an absolutely relentless tracker-down of paranormals and someone whom they feel will eliminate paranormals who have become a hindrance.

"Now, the problem is that **Justice** is going to begin severely questioning the morality of what he's been doing. The problem with **Justice** is he'd created this entire scenario for himself where he had a mission that had been given to him by God to judge paranormals. What he's really done is created this for himself so that he does not have to deal with this on human terms, the horror of what he's done. But that facade, that mental barrier begins to crumble as he interacts with his daughter **Angela**. And he's going to slowly begin to crack up. And not only that, but readers who have been clever enough to read between the lines are going to realize that **Angela** is also paranormal! We will be revealing in 1988 what her power is. And wouldn't it be an interesting scenario if **Angela** did not use her powers in a proper, just manner?"

PSI-FORCE

Written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Graham Nolan** and inked by **Mike Wtherby** Offset Mando paper Direct Sales only $1 25

"Issue #25 will be a full-length, 28-page story that culminates a storyline which pretty much started in issue #17. It's **Rodstvow** versus **Psi-Hawk** . . to the death! That means only one survives!" **Fabian** revealed

"After that issue #26 focuses on **Andrew Chaser**, a reporter who has to decide whether he's going to publish a book he's written on the **Psi-Force** members now that everyone in the United States believes them to be dead They'll wake up in #27, but they'll wake up at the Siberian Project in Russia They'll be there for about four issues, and they'll encounter **Crasniyee Solleetsi** [Red Sun'], which is basically a Russian equivalent of the **Avengers** or a Russian paranormal military force that has already been used in Afghanistan and briefly in Iran. **Psi-Force** will be rescued by **the Medusa Web** and **Justice**, which will lead to a culmination in a final battle with **Rodstvow** in issue #30

"Thereon, it'll probably be a question of how they're going to react and interact now that World War III has started to break out in minor pockets around the world Their decision is to start fighting because they're not going to be hunted or hounded anymore But they're not going to be taking sides either; they're anti-American anti-Russian, anti-war period It'll be them against the world

"A couple of members will leave to be replaced by a couple of new members, one of which will be one of the Russian characters

THE STAR BRAND

Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Tom Palmer** 32 pages Mando Offset paper Direct Sales only, $1 25

"In #16, we'll be seeing more of the events generated by the creation of the Pitt, more of the people who've been transmutated by what's essentially a second White Event," said **John Byrne** "We'll see more of the **Starchild** and some of the effects he's going to be working on the world He's going to be coming to some heavy philosophical reassessments about what life's all about because he's new to it, he's born with a fully adult intelligence, but he doesn't have a clue about what's going on Heavy philosophical concepts like death and love and all that

"I have plans for **the Star Brand** to pass on to at least two other people, probably simultaneously. We have **Roger Price**, who was introduced in #12; he's recently been rebuilt by the **Starchild**, so he's getting the power And the **Starchild** will also be passing on the power to an old man, somebody we haven't seen before, I want to play with an old person with super powers. The idea behind that is, the **Starchild** is saying to this man, 'The world needs to be fixed and you're old and you know you don't have much time, so maybe you'll fix it faster than someone else would

"Then, the **Starchild** himself is going to go off since you're always left with ten percent of the power, and try to find out where the power came from in the first place

"We'll also be dealing with more subtle philosophical points The **Starchild** rebuilt **Roger Price** So we'll be dealing with **Roger's** wife coming to terms with this brand new husband she finds herself with this isn't the guy I married '

"Plus, there will be one or two questions answered like 'What happened to **Kenneth Connell**?' because he had to make his big choice — 'Lose the power or die' — in issue #14 "

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

It was a year in which **Spider-Man** got married, **Captain America** quit, and the **Fantastic Four** began a new membership roster! Well, sure, those were some of the *important* events — but we're here to talk about the *trivial* events! Or perhaps not trivial, but just more subtle . . . less flashy . . . more intricate . . . the stuff, mayhap, upon which future storylines will be built! The following double-length quiz surveys just about all of Marvel's titles through the last twelve months — so it's your chance to see just how widely-read a Marvel madman you are! Answers, as you can see, are all over the page — but the *correct* answers are listed on page 48. Enjoy!

—Brian Nelson

1 The **Gentle Inquirer** is:
A) a member of the Aquilonian court of KING CONAN
B) a supporting cast member of STRIKEFORCE MORITURI
C) a mystic adviser to DR. STRANGE
D) Marvel's forthcoming new supermarket tabloid

2 Which clash of titans was NOT enacted in the epic struggle between **Warlock** and the **Impossible Man**?
A) **Spider-Man** vs. **Spider-Woman**
B) **Ricky** vs. **Lucy**
C) **Rocky** vs. **Rambo**
D) **Thing** vs. **Hulk**

3. The Armor Wars began when **Tony Stark** discovered one of his own circuits in the battle suit of
A) **Force**
B) **Stingray**
C) **Titanium Man**
D) **Jim Salicrup**

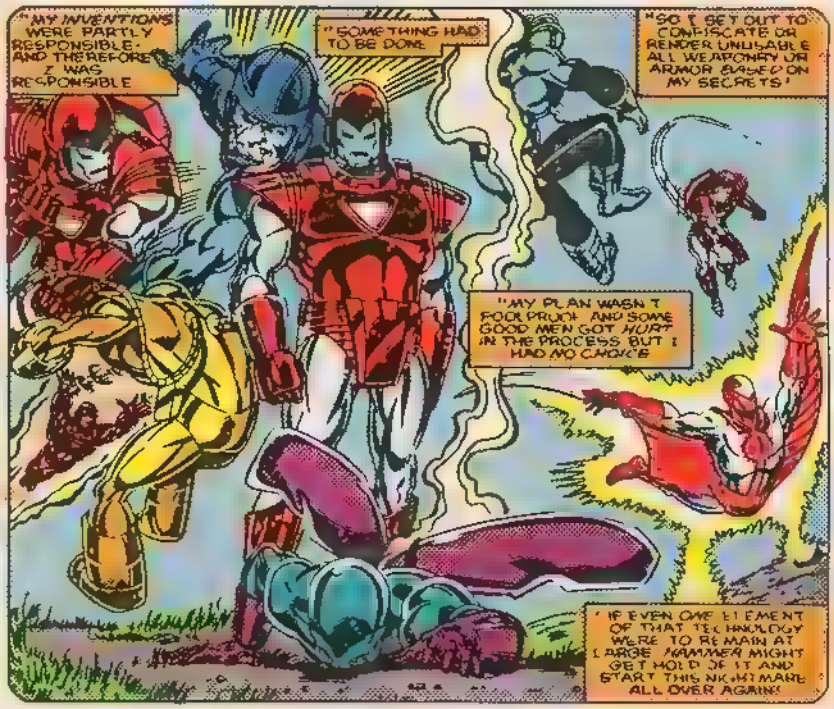
4 Who was created first?
A) Spider-Man
B) **ALF**
C) **Fantastic Four**
D) **Rocky** and **Bullwinkle**

5 "I Whom The Gods Would Destroy" are words to be associated with
A) **Hercules**
B) **Thor**
C) **Pluto**
D) **Minnie**

6. The first three **Avengers** to be featured with **Hawkeye** in SOLO AVENGERS were, in order
A) **Mockingbird**, **Captain Marvel**, **Moon Knight**
B) Mockingbird, Moon Knight, **Scarlet Witch**
C) Captain Marvel, Mockingbird, Moon Knight
D) **Jarvis**, **Rick Jones**, **Fabian Stankowicz**

7 Men trapped in women's bodies figured in the storylines of BOTH
A) SILVER SURFER and NEW MUTANTS
B) ALPHA FLIGHT and FANTASTIC FOUR
C) ALPHA FLIGHT and SILVER SURFER
D) GROO and TRANSFORMERS

8 She lost her own series, but **Dakota North** survived to guest in
A) SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
B) WEB OF SPIDER-MAN
C) X-FACTOR
D) ELFQUEST


"MY INVENTIONS WERE PARTLY RESPONSIBLE - AND THEREFORE I WAS RESPONSIBLE
"SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE
"SO I SET OUT TO CONFISCATE OR RENDER UNUSABLE ALL WEAPONRY OR ARMOR BASED ON MY SECRETS!
"MY PLAN WASN'T FOOLPROOF AND SOME GOOD MEN GOT HURT IN THE PROCESS BUT I HAD NO CHOICE
"IF EVEN ONE ELEMENT OF THAT TECHNOLOGY WERE TO REMAIN AT LARGE HAMMER MIGHT GET HOLD OF IT AND START THIS NIGHTMARE ALL OVER AGAIN!

9. Which of the following is NOT one of the paranormals who resided at the Clinic of **D.P. 7**?
A) **Regulator**
B) **Glitter**
C) **Slinky**
D) **Dementia**

10. The pair who revealed the secret identity of the new Captain America to the world were
A) **Hector** and **Jerome**
B) **Butch** and **Danny**
C) **Lance** and **Rupert**
D) **Butch** and **Sundance**

11 **Kraven** buried Spider-Man in:
A) Highcliffe Cemetery
B) the rear of the county sewage disposal unit
C) a plot on his private estate
D) twelve and a half minutes

12 The Fantastic Four's foe **Fasaud** came to their attention in his attempt to kill
A) **Gregory Dunbar**
B) **Hamilton Slade**
C) **Felicity Kendall**
D) **Det. Sgt. Blumkenn**

13 The Hulk battled **Man-Bull**
A) to free **Betty Ross**
B) near the home of **Alan Quartermain**
C) to keep the gamma bomb from detonating
D) while waiting for his order of Chinese take-out

14 **Scorpio** arranged for **Zodiac** impostors of which Avengers?
A) Hawkeye and **Wonder Man**
B) **Hank Pym** and Mockingbird
C) Moon Knight and Hank Pym
D) Hawkeye and **Tigra**

15 Which is not a name under which the **Punisher** has operated?
A) **Frank Castle**
B) **Frank Loomis**
C) **Frank Glendinning**
D) **Arnold Groetsch**

16. Glory-grabbing **Lt. Alarnick** made life hell for the regulars of
A) THE NAM
B) G.I. JOE
C) ALIEN LEGION
D) MADBALLS

17. **Wolverine** joined **Dazzler** on a mission that reintroduced which longtime friend of **Alison Blaire**?
A) **Barbara London**
B) **O.Z. Chase**
C) **Lancelot Steele**
D) **Galactus**

18 Which robot was a member of the ensemble entitled **Heavy Metal**?
A) **Jocasta**
B) **Tess-One**
C) **Wild Bill**
D) **Dreadnaught**

19 **Cipher** of the **New Mutants** was killed by.
A) **Caliban**
B) **the Animator**
C) **Birdbrain**
D) **Apocalypse**

20 He was described as the wildest **Dreadnok** to face off against the forces of G I JOE, his moniker was:
A) **Hellblazer**
B) **Zanzibar**
C) **Wiseguy**
D) **Heathcliff**

21 **Doctor Strange** stole much-needed mystic power from what woman of his past?
A) **Clea**
B) **Shazanna**
C) **Victoria Bentley**
D) **Valkyrie**

22 Which character DIDN'T betray **X-Factor** last year?
A) Caliban
B) **Angel**
C) **Skids**
D) **Cameron Hodge**

23. The **Warriors Three** spent the better part of the year in search of an Asgardian transformed into a goat, his name was:
A) **Ord**
B) **Mord**
C) **Nord**
D) **Ford**

24. And speaking of things Norse, Thor's hammer shattered in combat with which foe?
A) **Leir**
B) **Seth**
C) **Exitar**
D) **Fin Fang Foom**

25 Which character's advice led to the disaster depicted in THE PITT?
A) the **Old Man**
B) **Debbie the Duck**
C) **Myron**
D) **Wayne Tucker**

26 **Spellbinder**'s predecessor and deadly enemy was
A) **Zxaxz**
B) **Zxxax**
C) **Xzazx**
D) **Zzzax**

27. The demolishing power of **Daredevil's** foe **Bullet** was countered by his relationship with.
A) his son **Billy**
B) his son **Lance**
C) his ex-wife **Ann**
D) his quadraphonic stereo system

28. "Fear and Loathing" are words to be associated with.
A) **Dr. Zero**
B) **Video Jack**
C) **Marshal Law**
D) **J. Jonah Jameson**

29 Which is NOT a member of **Power Pack's** enemy gang, **Trash**?
A) **Waster**
B) **Crazy Legs**
C) **Razor Cut**
D) **Airhead**

30 **Dagger** found a shopping pal of sorts in:
A) **Rogue**
B) **Julie Power**
C) the **Black Cat**
D) **Alexis Carrington**

31 Which real-life National Public Radio reporter witnessed the "death" of the **X-Men**?
A) **Frank Stasio**
B) **Neal Conan**
C) **Noah Adams**
D) **Nina Totenberg**

32 **Alpha Flight's Goblyn** shares an interspatial relationship with.
A) **Laura Brown**
B) **Laura Dean**
C) **Betty Dean**
D) **Betty Boop**

33 Spider-Man and **Chance** teamed to defeat.
A) the **Rose**
B) the **Life Foundation**
C) the **Nirvana Corporation**
D) deadline problems

34 **Tath Ki** was the object of relentless pursuit by:
A) the **Transformers**
B) **Sarigar** of the Alien Legion
C) the Punisher
D) the **Silver Surfer** and **Nova**

35 Which character did NOT appear in PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM?
A) **Baron Zebro**
B) **Paste Post Peep**
C) the **Mad Stinker**
D) **Knock Furious**, Agent of SHEESH

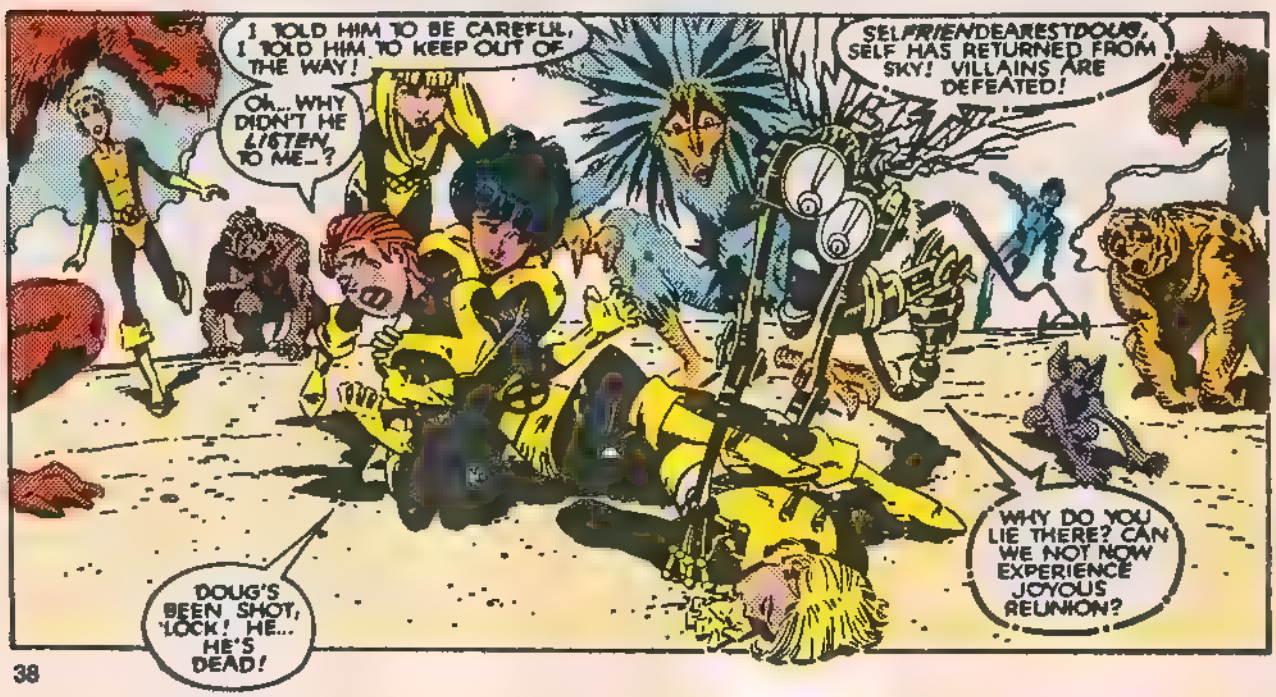
36. Which "hero" debuted in MARVEL FANFARE?
A) **Sunturion**
B) **Dr. Owl**
C) **Iron Man of 2020**
D) **Counterweight**

37 Which KULL character of days gone by returned in the pages of CONAN?
A) **Tu**
B) **Trule**
C) **Tuzun Thune**
D) **Thulsa Doom**

38. EXCALIBUR's premiere depicted a poster of what classic book hanging over **Kitty Pryde's** bed?
A) THE MISTS OF AVALON
B) THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING
D) DR. ZHIVAGO
D) THE INNOCENTS ABROAD

39 **Pete** and **MJ** honeymooned in:
A) Australia
B) the South of France
C) the Grecian Isles
D) the nick of time

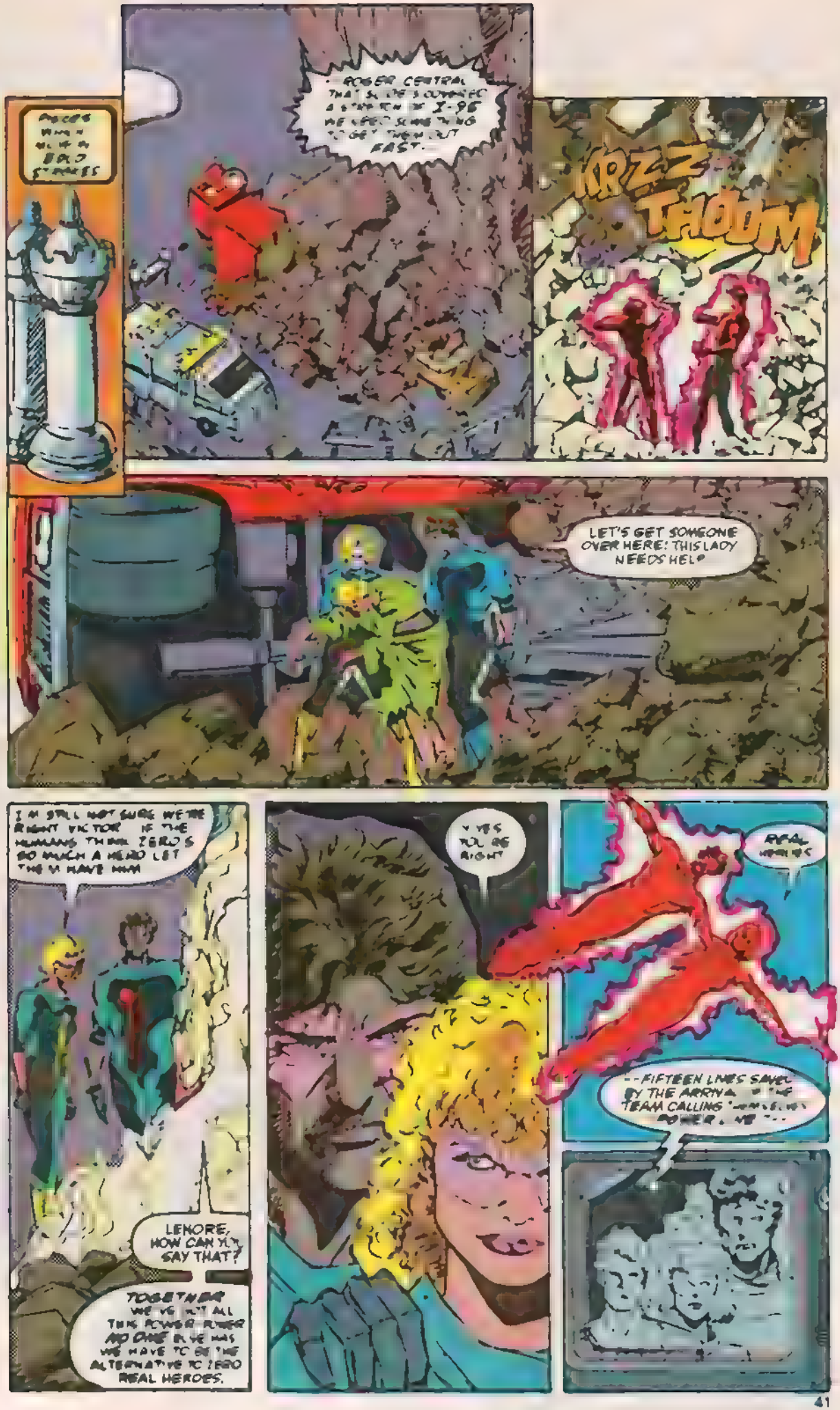
40 Which Marvel bathing beauty did NOT appear on last year's Summer Fun issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE?
A) Dagger
B) **Storm**
C) Mockingbird
D) **Medusa**


I TOLD HIM TO BE CAREFUL, I TOLD HIM TO KEEP OUT OF THE WAY!
OH... WHY DIDN'T HE LISTEN TO ME...?
SELF FRIEND EAREST DOUG, SELF HAS RETURNED FROM SKY! VILLAINS ARE DEFEATED!
DOUG'S BEEN SHOT, 'LOCK! HE... HE'S DEAD!
WHY DO YOU LIE THERE? CAN WE NOT NOW EXPERIENCE JOYOUS REUNION?

A SHADOWLINE SAGA

THE HUMANS GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY GAMES OBLIVIOUS TO THE MATCH BEING PLAYED OUT AROUND
A RACE OF BEINGS--
TALENTS BEAUTIFUL AND
PIECES ALL MOVING THROUGH A GAME THE

PIECES THAT STAND AT THE CENTER OF THE GAME
FOR FREE ELECTIONS ARE HIGH AT THIS TIME--


ROGER CENTRAL THAT SLIME'S COMING AT THE TEAM IN SECTOR X-98 WE NEED SOME HELP TO GET THEM OUT FAST.
KRZZ THOOM
LET'S GET SOMEONE OVER HERE! THIS LADY NEEDS HELP
I'M STILL NOT SURE WE'RE RIGHT VICTOR IF THE HUMANS THINK ZERO IS SO MUCH A HERO LET THEM HAVE HIM
YES YOU'RE RIGHT
REAL
--FIFTEEN LIVES SAVED BY THE ARRIVAL OF THE TEAM CALLING
LENORE, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
TOGETHER WE'VE GOT ALL THIS POWER-POWER AND DARE BY WE HAS WE HAVE TO BE THE ALTERNATIVE TO ZERO REAL HEROES.

PIECES THAT MOVE IN COMPLEX PATTERNS
WE OF THE SHADOWS OFFER YOU A CHANCE LIKE NO OTHER HUMAN, MICHAEL DEVLIN
LAY ASIDE YOUR PRIESTLY VOWS
BECOME OUR KNIGHT OF ST. GEORGE.
AND GO FORTH··
- TO BATTLE THE DRAGONS OF INJUSTICE
--OFFICIALS ARE STILL AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN THE RECENT, DRAMATIC DROP IN THE CRIME RATE, ALTHOUGH POLICE ARE QUICK··

CHECK OUT A SHADOW LINE SAGA TITLE TODAY!

epic® A to Z

Love comics, but find yourself wanting something different? Then look at Epic! From the best in foreign comics, to science-fiction, to tales that challenge the way we view super heroes, and more, Epic comics are produced on high-quality paper and formats. Often the themes explored are for mature audiences. Other times, they're zany and just plain fun. For a company that presents everything from GROO to SOMEPLACE STRANGE, one thing you can count on, expect the unexpected from Epic!

AKIRA

Akira is the first English language color edition of **Otomo's** Japanese masterpiece. The setting is Neo-Tokyo, where a power struggle rages between the government forces, rebel groups, and disaffected teenage motorcycle gangs. The goal, control of the mysterious thing or person called **Akira**. Each action-packed issue will be 64 pages, and in the Graphic Album format used for BLOOD.

ALIEN LEGION

Written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Larry Stroman**, inked by **Randy Emberlin**. Direct Sales only. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. $1.25.

In upcoming issues, we will see how **Jugger Grimrod** deals with his new officership, while the Legion discovers a possible traitor within the Union. The Legion must fight the traitor, endangering the Union with the threat of civil war. **Zeerod** will return in the midst of this turmoil, and a new character, an industrial espionage agent named **Nikhira Doomhar** will be introduced.

THE INCAL

Written by **Alexandro Jodorowsky**, art by **Moebius**. An Epic Graphic Novel Trilogy. For Mature Readers only. Volumes 1 and 3: $10.95. Volume 2: $12.95.

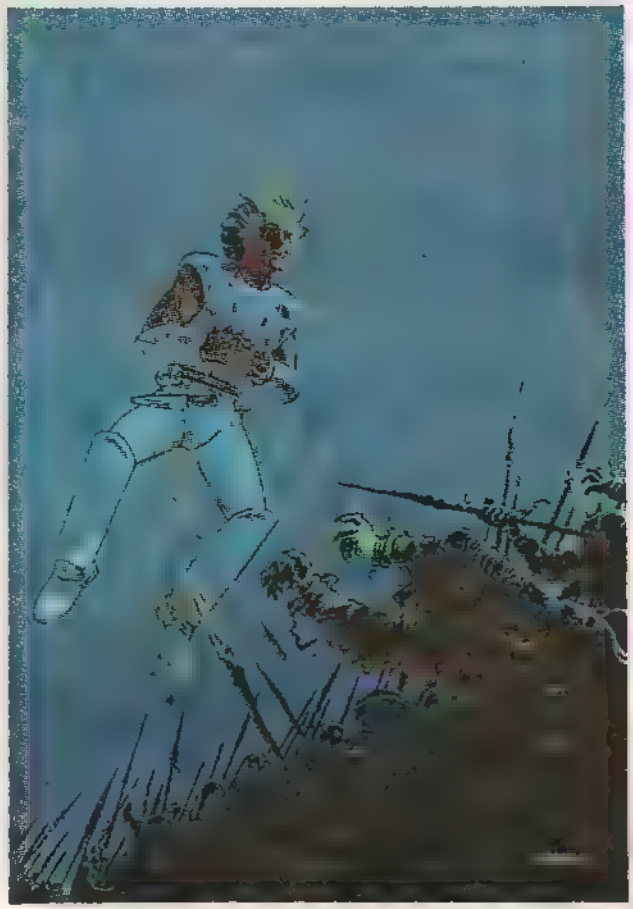
The Incal is actually a series of three graphic novels which contain one continuous story. "It is a science-fiction/private eye thriller," said translator **Jean-Marc Lofficier**. "The Incal is a trilogy, interlocked in the same manner as THE LORD OF THE RINGS." **John Difool**, the lead character, seemingly unwittingly becomes the owner of the Incal, a small crystalline pyramid. When he tries to use the Incal to turn a profit, he discovers that he's stumbled into the middle of an intergalactic plot to overthrow the Human Empire.

The first and third books in the trilogy will be 96 pages, and the second book will be a massive 120 page story.

GROO

By **Sergio Aragones** with **Mark Evanier**. 75¢

Groo will be getting a new costume! Or at least he thinks it's new . . . actually it looks a whole lot like his old costume . . . but then, who would tell a guy like **Groo** that he's made a mistake? So, anyway, **Groo** has this new costume, and **Rufferto** finally realizes that he's not **Groo**, but a dog (the relief is incredible!). In other words, a complete shakeup of the GROOniverse. Be there for all the mulching jokes you can stand, and possibly even a new joke. Possibly.



THE INCAL TM and © 1988 Alexandra Jodorowsky and Moebius

THE LAST AMERICAN

Written by **Alan Grant** and **John Wagner**, art by **Mike McMahon**. 32 pages. Hudson paper. Direct Sales only. $1.95.

THE LAST AMERICAN is set in the near future of the United States, a future devastated by nuclear war. The Last American of the title is **Captain Ulysses S. Pilgrim**, who had been placed in suspended animation, to emerge after the nuclear winter had passed. "He has the full authority of the President to restore the former American glory, and to take revenge on the culprits responsible for the war," said writer **Alan Grant**. "Since it is unlikely that there will be any survivors, the series shows a serious side of nuclear war, a side that is not often explored.

TM and © 1986 Tom Veitch & Cam Kennedy.

THE LAST OF THE DRAGONS

Written by **Denny O'Neil**, plotted and penciled by **Carl Potts**, inked by **Terry Austin** $6.95

This graphic novel reprints the popular "Last of the Dragons" series from EPIC ILLUSTRATED magazine. The story of Ninjas and Dragons in 19th century Japan and America pits a young half-Japanese, half-American Ninja and an aging Samurai against priests who are trying to corrupt the noble dragons for their own evil purposes. The new edition features a new painted cover by Carl Potts.

THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS WAR

Written by **Tom Veitch**, art by **Cam Kennedy**. A Six-issue Limited Series. 32 pages. Hudson paper. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers only. $1.95

THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS WAR combines adult storytelling and graphic intensity in a tale of Vietnam veterans fighting in a realm beyond death. Using antique weapons and stone ships, an entire Light Galaxy wages war with the Outer Darkness that surrounds it. When the dark side imports super-modern arms from Earth, the action and bloodshed push rapidly toward maximum.

THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS WAR is also the story of **Lazarus Jones**, a Vietnam veteran suffering from 15 years of alcohol and drug abuse, who finds himself set free in a just war, a war in which his deep-rooted warrior's spirit re-emerges fiery and proud from the ashes of the past.

MARSHAL LAW

Written by **Pat Mills**, art by **Kevin O'Neill**. 32 pages. Hudson paper. Direct Sales only. For Mature Readers only. $1.95.

Marshal Law explores the nature of heroes and heroism through the title character, **Marshal Law**, a "hero-hunter" in the inner-city of San Futuro. The whole modern concept of the "hero" is made suspect, as the citizens of San Futuro accept super heroes from **Marshal Law** to the **Public Spirit**, without questioning their motivations, morals or methods. In the first six issues, the character of the **Sleepman**, a homicidal rapist super hero, is used to explore the theme of the book, as Marshal Law tries to track down this quintessential "hero-gone-wrong."

A SHADOWLINE SAGA

DOCTOR ZERO

Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark**, penciled by **Denys Cowan**, inked by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25

In his quest to save the Earth for his own Machiavellian reasons **Doctor Zero** tangles with human and Shadow Dweller villains, including a scientist who wants to blow up the Earth and a Shadow Dweller whose talent is the spread of deadly diseases. **Doctor Zero** will also go to Soviet bloc countries to receive help from a KGB friend, and all his public activities stir up a lot of public interest in **Doctor Zero's** powers.

POWERLINE

Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark**, penciled by **Dave Ross**, inked by **Bob McLeod** and penciled and inked by **Gray Morrow**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25

POWERLINE will change artists as of issue #5, when **Gray Morrow** takes up all the art chores.

Meanwhile, **Powerline** will have its successful public debut in issue #3, when they save a DC3 and its passengers. **Uncle Ripley** arranges for even more press coverage of the fledgling team of **Victor Guillermoose** and **Lenore Castle**. **Lenore** confronts the death of her mother, a death she feels responsible for. She will also meet with **Doctor Zero** in a dream which implies some connection between the two. **Powerline** will also discover that the DC3 "accident" was actually intentional, and that at least one of the passengers was supposed to die.

SAINT GEORGE

Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark**, art by **Klaus Janson**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25

After receiving a disturbing psychic vision, the former priest **Michael Devlin** returns to his old home town for solace, only to find it dying economically and spiritually under the influence of a developer and his Shadow Dweller girlfriend. **Devlin's** attempts to fight this menace backfire, and he is forced to don the armor of **Saint George** to save the small town.

SOMEPLACE STRANGE

Written by **Ann Nocenti**, art by **John Bolton**. An Epic Graphic Novel. $6.95.

The plot of the SOMEPLACE STRANGE Graphic Novel revolves around **Edward** and **James**, two young boys, and **Joy**, one teenage girl. **James** doesn't want to grow up, **Edward** believes the world is a terrible, polluted place and wants to leave it, and **Joy** is an out and out brat. The two boys encounter the **Bogey Man** and chase after him. They fall down a hole and emerge in a surreal world which changes to reflect their moods. It is there that they meet **Joy**. The three are able to control only portions of this world, and it is the growing threat from the portions they can't control that causes **Ed-**

ward and James to create their own super hero to help them. "The art will change to reflect the changes in the environment around the boys," said writer **Ann Nocenti**. "It's a very visual book."

STRAY TOASTERS

Written and drawn by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. A Four-Issue Limited Series. 48 pages. Hudson paper. Graphic Album Format. Direct Sales only. $3.50.

"STRAY TOASTERS is a horror/science-fiction/mystery with strong psychological overtones," said creator **Bill Sienkiewicz**. "Children are being found all over the city, sitting in front of television sets, drained of all body fluids. Women are also being found murdered in kitchens, with all appliances destroyed around them. A criminal psychologist named **Egon Rustemagic** is trying to find out what's going on, but his efforts are hindered by another psychologist who's trying to cover everything up. **Rustemagic** is also trying to fight his own psychosis, which has previously landed him in the hospital."

VIDEO JACK

Written by **Cary Bates**, penciled by **Keith Giffen**, inked by **Dave Hunt**. 32 pages. Mando Offset paper. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

In issue five, **Alan Weiss** and **Carmine Infantino** will join the art team. **Jack** and **Demon** go to an **Errol Flynn** pirate movie and an entire "Dynasty" world.

The action in issue six will be penciled by no less than eleven different artists, including **Keith Giffen**, **Walt Simonson**, **Kevin Maguire**, **Steve Bissette**, **Trina Robbins**, **Michael Gilbert**, **Ernie Colon**, **Fred Hembeck**, **Jim Starlin**, **Berni Wrightson**, and **Neal Adams**. Each artist will cover one or two pages of the battle between **Jack** and **Demon**.

WOLVERINE AND HAVOK: MELTDOWN Limited Series

Written by **Louise** and **Walt Simonson** and illustrated by **Jon J Muth** and **Kent Williams**. 48 pages. A Marvel Graphic Album Limited Series. Direct Sales only. $3.50.

Okay, we admit it. We tried to edit what **Walt** and **Louise** told us about MELTDOWN, but once they started finishing each other's sentences, we decided the heck with it. So here's what they said verbatim.

LOUISE: It takes place mainly in Russia.

WALT: Well, actually, it starts off in Mexico.

LOUISE: It starts off in Mexico.

WALT: It's international in scene. It's in Russia, it's in Mexico, it's somewhere in Europe.

LOUISE: The Middle East.

WALT: **Kent Williams** and **J Muth** are going to paint it. It's a great art job.

LOUISE: We find out why Chernobyl really melted down, just as an appetizer. We are introduced to a couple of villains whose names are **Mr. Neutron** and **Megaton**. **Mr. Neutron** is a . . . what is he? a crazy . . .

WALT: A looney, chess-playing mathematician.

LOUISE: . . . who's in an insane asylum, who is the mastermind behind all this, although he doesn't know it. And **Megaton** is a Communist entrepreneur.

WALT: Yeah, a Communist advocate of free enterprise.

LOUISE: For himself but no one else. For everyone else, everything should be very expensive. **Havok** is kidnaped by their organization and **Wolverine** has to go after him.

WALT: They have a use for **Havok**. It's something intermediary. But he'll have to be persuaded to let them use his services in their interest.

It's **Havok** and **Wolverine**. What more do you need to know?

STAR™ comics A to Z

Marvel's Star Comics line is intended for younger readers — but with all the enthusiasm and excitement the writers and artists are pouring into 'em, we're not surprised that some older folks are picking 'em up, too!

CARE BEARS TM and © 1988 American Greeting Corp.

BORIS BADENOV TM and © 1988 P.A.T.-Ward.

KERMIT TM and © 1988 Henson Associates, Inc.

ALF

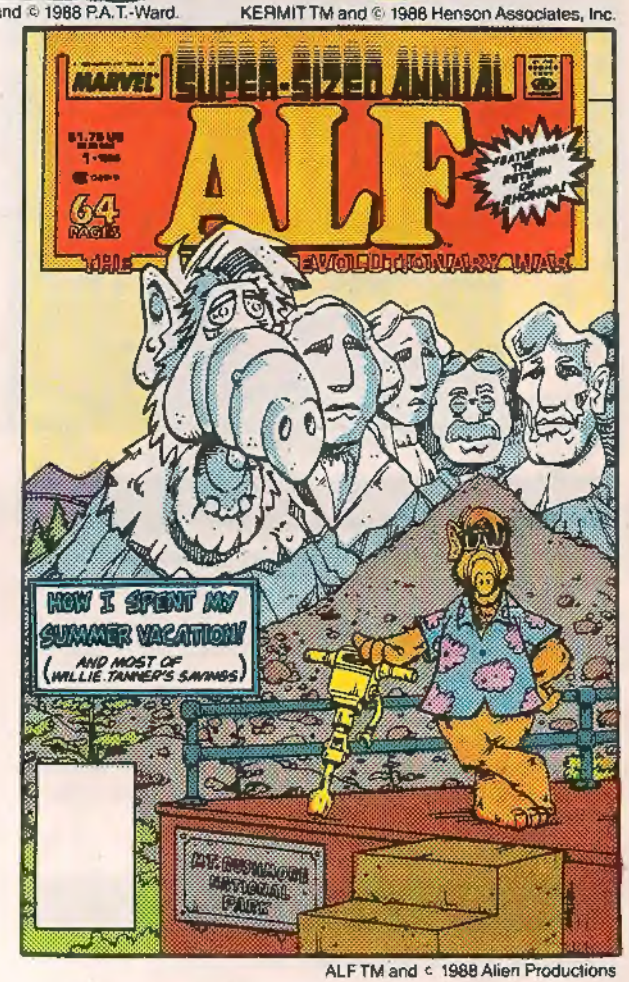
Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. $1.00.

If you're a fan of the ALF television show and haven't checked out his Star comic, you're missing out on a treat!

The past year saw **ALF**, the **Alien Life Form** from the planet Melmac, almost turn the hapless **Tanner** household inside out in his wacky efforts to adapt to life on Earth. In the upcoming year, Editor **Sid Jacobson** said **ALF** is going to get himself, and the **Tanners**, into even more hilarious trouble!

But the big news for 1988 is — the **ALF** ANNUAL! When the **Tanners** decide to take their summer vacation, they naturally take **ALF** with them. The result is a decision **Mr.** and **Mrs. Tanner** regret, but one that you'll have a howling good time enjoying! Plus: the annual features the return of **ALF**'s long-lost love, **Rhonda!**

One of the highlights in the regular ALF series will be the special all-Melmac issue in which we discover how **ALF** and his fellow Melmacians celebrate Melmac Independence Day. Needless to say, it's done a lot differently than any holiday celebrated on Earth!



ALF TM and © 1988 Alien Productions

ALF COMICS MAGAZINE

Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. $1.50.

If you missed **ALF**'s first comic-book adventures, here's your chance to catch them in this digest-sized anthology series which will re-present every **ALF** story beginning with ALF #1.

BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY

Written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. $1.00.

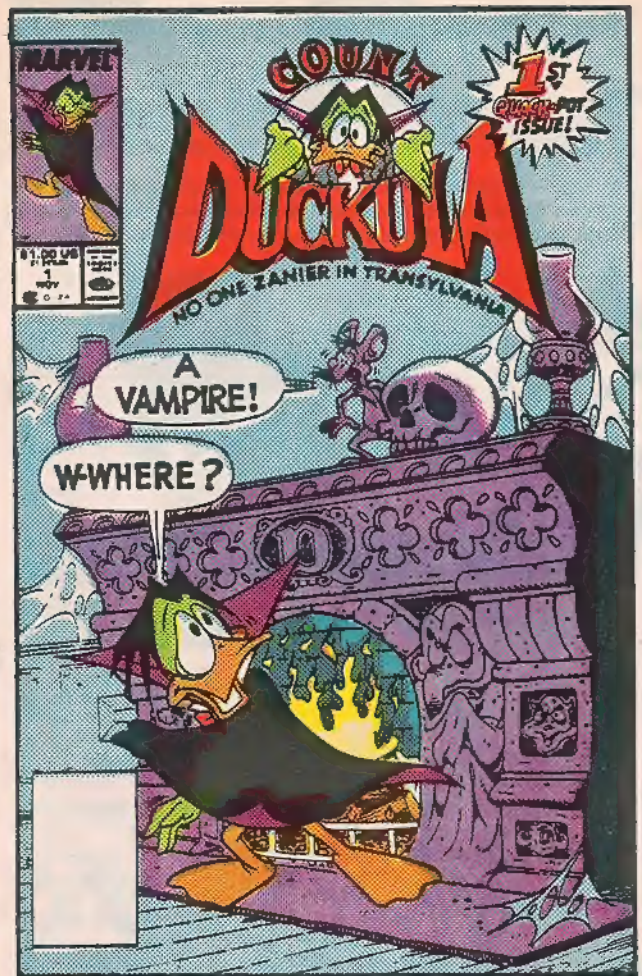
The Star comic features the characters from the classic cartoon show and was one of the big hits of '87. So you can expect BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY to be great in '88! The format of the comic follows that of the cartoon show. And that means that each issue will be chock-a-block full of a variety of tales — from high adventure with **Bullwinkle** and **Rocky**, to history as it might have been were it not for the timely intervention of **Mr. Peabody** and his boy, **Sherman**, to Fractured Fairy Tales — and more! The whole cast will be there: those cunning spies from Pottsylvania, **Boris** and **Natasha**, the befuddled sailor, **Captain Peter "Wrongway" Peachfuzz**, the intrepid, and not too bright, **Dudley Doright**, his true love, **Nell**, and his arch-nemesis, **Snidely Whiplash**.

Editor **Sid Jacobson** told us that one special story to look out for is **Bullwinkle's** return to his alma mater, Wossamatta U. Only now it's called Wossamatta *Me!* The reason for the name change is **Boris** and **Natasha** — they've taken over the campus and turned it into a spy school! What happens next has to be seen to be believed!

CARE BEARS

Writtten by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. $1.00.

Feeling blue, then CARE BEARS is for you! These fanciful bears all have hearts of gold — even **Grumpy Bear** — and they have the power to take sorrows and turn them into joy. Join **Sunshine Bear**, **Wish Bear**, **Good Luck Bear**, and all the other **Care Bears** and **Care Bears Cousins**. There's lots of worry still left in this world, and the **Care Bears** refuse to rest until everybody is happy!



DUCKULA TM and © 1988 Cosgrove-Hall Productions

COUNT DUCKULA

Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. $1.00.

The hit Nickelodeon animated cable television series debuts as a Star Comic in 1988! COUNT DUCKULA is the wacky story of a vegetarian vampire, who also happens to be a duck. The first issue will feature his origin, and a wild tale of what happens to **Count Duckula** when he goes to Hollywood to star in a movie with **Bird Reynolds**!

Count Duckula will be assisted in his adventures by his faithful companion, **Igor**. And he will find himself menaced by the persistent vampire hunter, **Dr. von Goosewing**!

DINO-RIDERS

Written by **George Caragonne**. $1.00.

They come from the doomed planet Valoria. They seek refuge in the prehistoric past, hoping to build a brave new world for themselves during the Age of Dinosaurs on Earth. But their intergalactic enemies, the ravaging **Rulons**, have followed them! Thus the stage is set for the saga of the **Dino-Riders**!

The first issue will detail the epic odyssey through time of the **Valorians** and how they came to be the amazing **Dino-Riders**! The tale will end with a death of a **Dino-Rider** that imperils the future of the **Dino-Riders**.

Issue #2 finds **Dino-Rider** vs. **Dino-Rider**!

Issue #3 the **Rulens** exploit the schism within the **Dino-Rider** ranks by launching an all-out attack. And the attack succeeds beyond even their wildest dreams.

After that, expect the few surviving **Dino-Riders** to wage a bitter war of survival against the **Rulons** and against the savage and primitive dangers of a prehistoric world.

FLINTSTONE KIDS

Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**. $1.00.

Take **Fred** and **Wilma Flintstone** and **Barney** and **Betty Rubble** of the classic FLINTSTONES cartoon television program, and show what they were like as kids and you have FLINTSTONE KIDS! Young **Freddy Flintstone** is a kid full of dreams — the biggest being the desire to be **Wilma's** one and only boyfriend. But **Freddy's** going to find a lot of obstacles in his way in the upcoming year. In addition to romantic problems, **Freddy's** going to have a lot of family problems — starting with his rich **Uncle Mintstone** who is going to be taking an active — and expensive — interest in **Freddy's** life. But that's just the beginning, because **Freddy's** going to be rubbing shoulders with a lot of other relatives — some who will be giving a whole new meaning to the word "eccentric."

LITTLE WIZARDS

Written by **Laura Hitchcock**, penciled by **Ben Brown**, and inked by **Jon D'Agostino**. $1.00.

Based on the Marvel Productions animated television show, LITTLE WIZARDS is the tale of young **Prince Dexter** and his monstrous friends, **Lulu**, **Winkle**, and **Boo**, and of **Prince Dexter's** valiant battle to defeat the evil wizard **Renwick** and regain the throne to Zedonia. But **Renwick** is going to prove to be more powerful than ever. And it will take all of **Prince Dexter's** skills, and those of the kindly wizard, **Phineas**, to defeat him.

MUPPET BABIES

Written by **Laura Hitchcock**, penciled by **Marie Severin**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. $1.00.

The **Muppet Babies** won an Emmy with their animated television show, and they've been winning over the young and the young at heart with their Star comic! One of the big reasons for their success is the engaging way the **Muppet Babies** use life, movies, and television shows as springboards for some of the wildest flights of fantasy ever to appear in a comic. Little **Kermit**, **Miss Piggy**, **Gonzo**, **Fozzie**, and all the rest of the gang, including **Nanny**, will explore new worlds where only the imagination can travel. But even though they never leave the safety of their nursery, with an imagination as vivid as theirs, you'll come to believe just as they do that what's happening to them is *real!*

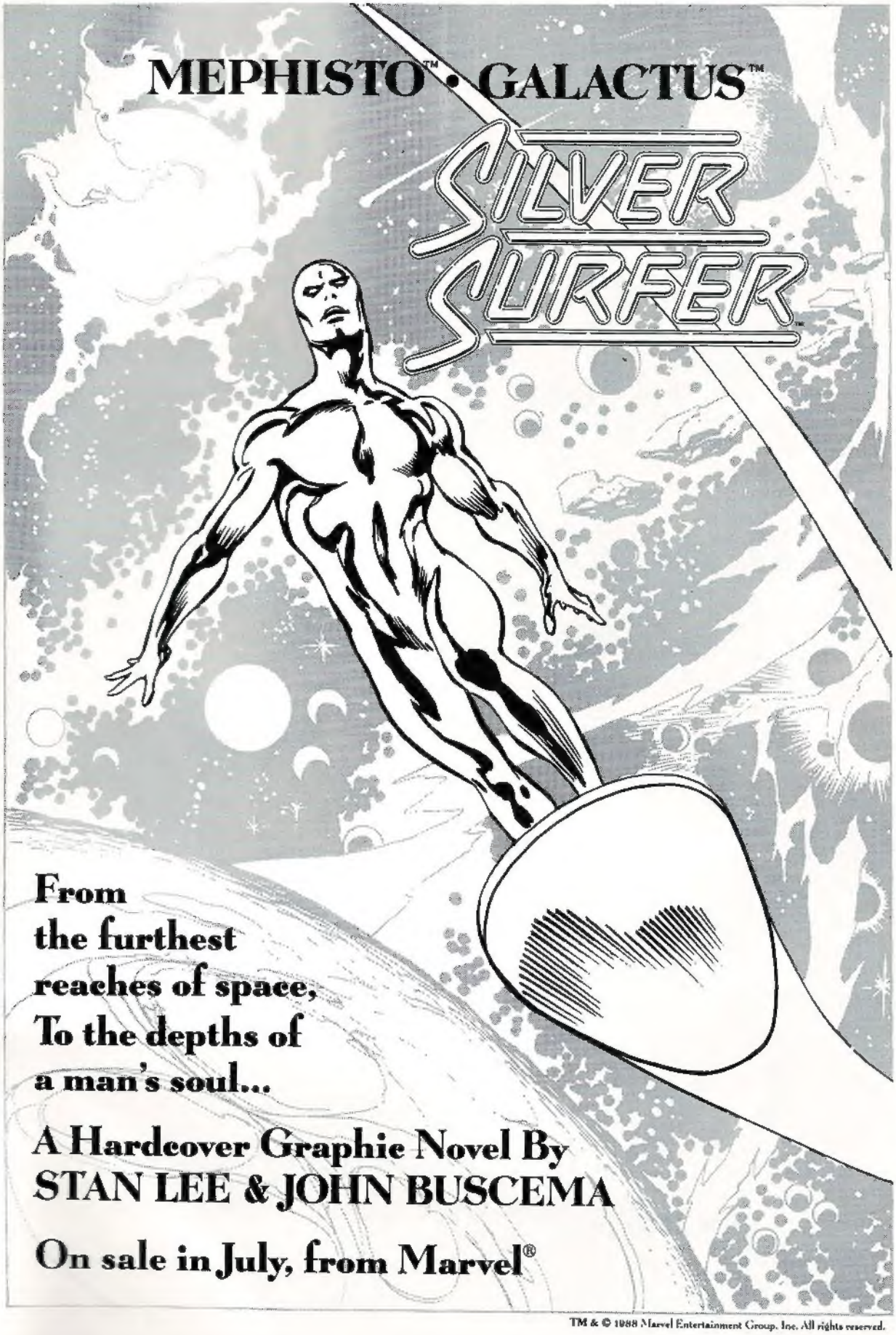
STAR COMICS MAGAZINE

Written and drawn by various writers and artists. $1.50.

The big news here is that **ALF's** best adventures will begin appearing in Star Comics' digest-sized bi-monthly anthology series which re-presents the classic tales from such Star titles as HEATHCLIFF, CARE BEARS, FLINTSTONE KIDS, MUPPET BABIES.

ANSWERS TO MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ

1. B	9. C	17. B	25. C	33. B
2. B	10. A	18. B	26. A	34. D
3. A	11. C	19. B	27. B	35. D
4. D	12. A	20. B	28. C	36. B
5. B	13. B	21. C	29. A	37. D
6. A	14. D	22. C	30. C	38. B
7. C	15. C	23. B	31. B	39. B
8. B	16. A	24. C	32. B	40. C



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MUTANTS AND MAYHEM AND
CLOAK AND DAGGER™
BACK IN THEIR OWN BOOK AGAIN AND
X-FACTOR™'S GOING TO HELP THEM KICK THINGS OFF!!
BY TERRY AUSTIN AND DAN LAWLIS
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